

Kuefler, Patrick

From: Poy, Thomas
Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 2:47 PM
To: Borries, Samuel
Cc: Korleski, Christopher; Henry, Timothy; Kuefler, Patrick; Bahr, Ryan
Subject: FW: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

Sam: FYI... Chicago will be doing some Cr+6 sampling at their Southwest Plant crib and will take their boat out to do some Lake Michigan sampling, as they did during the BP Whiting event in 2014.

Tom

Tom Poy
 Chief, Ground Water and Drinking Water Branch
 USEPA - Region 5
 (312) 886-5991

From: Stark, Alan [mailto:Alan.Stark@cityofchicago.org]
Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 2:19 PM
To: McMillan, Dave <DAVE.MCMILLAN@Illinois.gov>; Poy, Thomas <poy.thomas@epa.gov>
Cc: Murphy, Barrett <Barrett.Murphy@cityofchicago.org>; Hernandez-Tomlin, Julie <Julie.HernandezTomlin@cityofchicago.org>; Putz, Andrea <Andrea.Putz@cityofchicago.org>; Kelly, Mike <Mike.Kelly@cityofchicago.org>; Schwer, Patrick <Patrick.Schwer@cityofchicago.org>; O'Malley, Mark <Mark.OMalley@cityofchicago.org>; Salinas, Eduardo <Eduardo.Salinas@cityofchicago.org>; Skiadopoulos, Frank <Frank.Skiadopoulos@cityofchicago.org>; Litherland, Gary <Gary.Litherland@cityofchicago.org>; Caminer, Irene <Irene.Caminer@cityofchicago.org>
Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

Dave and Tom

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Subject: FW: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

Additional information per our discussion.

From: Lauder, Roger
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Subject: FW: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

FYI

From: Borries, Samuel [mailto:borries.samuel@epa.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 1:48 PM
To: Lauder, Roger
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Subject: [External] FW: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

Roger,
Here is the ER notification report with the current information.

From: Thomas, Craig
Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 1:46 PM
To: R5 ER Notification List <R5_ER_Notification_List@epa.gov>
Cc: Maguire, Andrew <maguire.andrew@epa.gov>; Beslow, Mike <beslow.mike@epa.gov>; Lippert, Jeffrey <lippert.jeffrey@epa.gov>; Behnke, Kristina <behnke.kristina@epa.gov>; Mendez, Thomas <mendez.thomas@epa.gov>
Subject: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

ER Notification #1 (Initial) – U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release, Portage, IN

Region 5 ER Notification #1 (Initial): NRC# 1175399, U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release, Portage, IN

Report as of: 09/23/16 at 13:45 CDT

Overview: On 4/11/17 at approximately 09:30 central time, U.S Steel Corporation discovered a green discoloration in the water near an outfall at their facility in Portage, IN, discharging into Burns Waterway (aka Burns Ditch). U.S. Steel reported this to the National Response Center (NRC #1175399). OSC Thomas contacted the reporting party regarding this incident, and was told the facility was conducting an investigation to determine what it was. OSC Thomas then contacted OSCs Beslow and Mendez, who were nearby, to investigate as well.

Upon arriving at the scene, OSCs Beslow and Mendez met with U.S Steel's environmental manager and were told that the facility had determined the material was hexavalent chrome. This information was immediately shared with United States Coast Guard personnel, who were also responding.

State, Local, and other Federal Agency Action: The USCG, and IDEM have arrived on scene. EPA has notified local water intakes in Gary, East Chicago, and Ogden Dunes. Indiana American Water in Ogden Dunes has shut down their water intake and has approximately 4 hours of reserves.

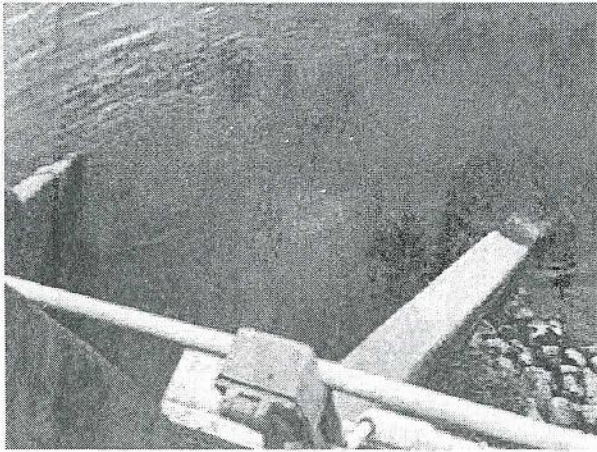
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EPA Actions: EPA OSC Andy Maguire and START are mobilizing to the scene to conduct water sampling. Investigations are under way to determine how the hexavalent chrome released, the amount of hexavalent chrome released and the extent of the release into the waterway.

The facility has minimized the amount of water it is using to essential systems only to reduce through put.

Media Interest: No media interest at this time.

EPA Region 5 OSC contact: Andy Maguire, 312-758-8672



Craig Thomas
US EPA Region 5 On-Scene Coordinator
Emergency Response Branch
77 W. Jackson Blvd., SE-5J
Chicago, IL 60604
312-886-5907 office
312-802-9637 cell



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Poy, Thomas

From: Feighner, Bryce (DEQ) <FEIGHNERB@michigan.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 1:22 PM
To: Teresa Seidel; Fish, Kim (DEQ); Argiroff, Phil (DEQ); Benzie, Richard (DEQ); Krisztian, George (DEQ); Lachance, Amy (DEQ)
Cc: Poy, Thomas
Subject: US Steel Discharge near Portage Indiana

Tom Poy of EPA just called to inform us that a discharge is occurring from US Steel into Portage Creek near Portage, Indiana. The discharge apparently contains Chromium 6. The discharge volume is unknown. EPA is sending their emergency response folks to the scene. More information will be provided when known

Michigan drinking water staff will inform the nearby WTPs.

Bryce Feighner, P.E, Director
Drinking Water and Municipal Assistance Division
Michigan Department of Environmental Quality
Constitution Hall
525 West Allegan Street
Lansing, Michigan 48909
517-284-6524 Office (Voicemail)
517-420-6598 Cell
feighnerb@michigan.gov

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To: R5 ER Notification List
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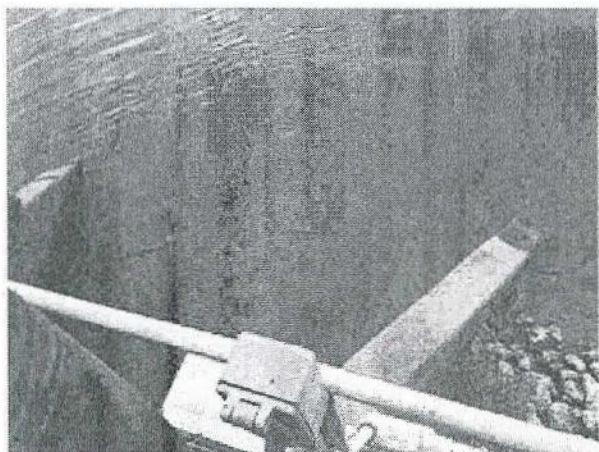
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From: Borries, Samuel
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To: Poy, Thomas
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Sam.

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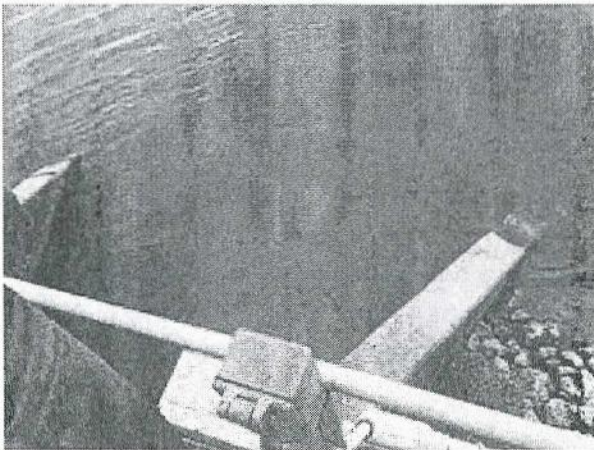
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To: McMillan, Dave; Poy, Thomas
Cc: Murphy, Barrett; Hernandez-Tomlin, Julie; Putz, Andrea; Kelly, Mike; Schwer, Patrick; O'Malley, Mark; Salinas, Eduardo; Skiadopoulos, Frank; Litherland, Gary; Caminer, Irene
Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

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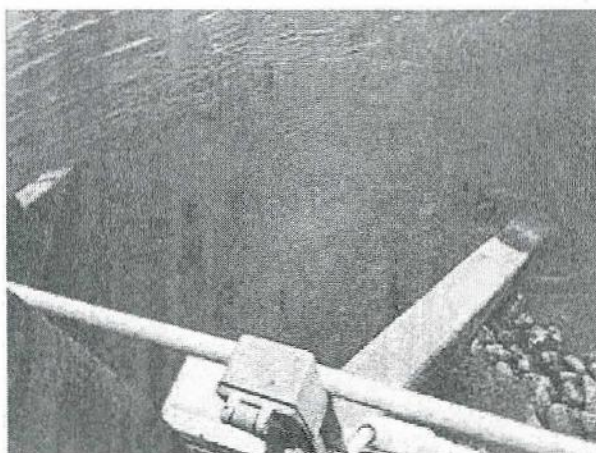
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Poy, Thomas

From: Poy, Thomas
Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 2:42 PM
To: Mary Hollingsworth; Dave McMillan; Bryce Feighner (feighnerb@michigan.gov)
Cc: Korleski, Christopher; Timothy Henry - EPA; Ryan Bahr; Kuefler, Patrick
Subject: FW: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

FYI...The release started this morning but still no estimate of volume yet.

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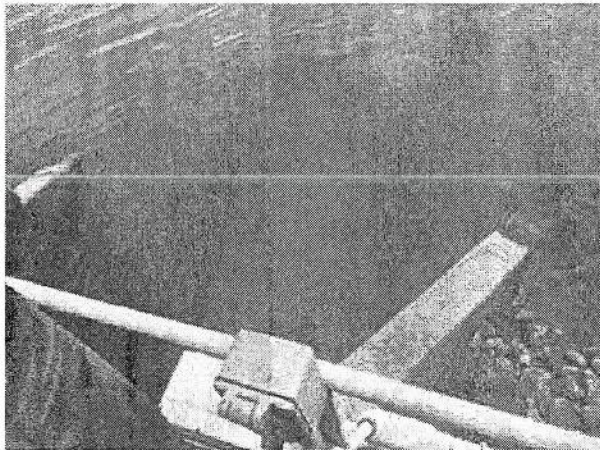
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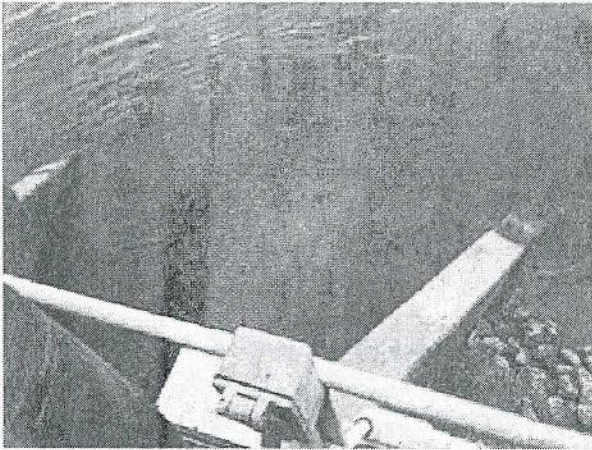
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Cc: Murphy, Barrett <Barrett.Murphy@cityofchicago.org>; Hernandez-Tomlin, Julie <Julie.HernandezTomlin@cityofchicago.org>; Putz, Andrea <Andrea.Putz@cityofchicago.org>; Kelly, Mike <Mike.Kelly@cityofchicago.org>; Schwer, Patrick <Patrick.Schwer@cityofchicago.org>; O'Malley, Mark <Mark.OMalley@cityofchicago.org>; Salinas, Eduardo <Eduardo.Salinas@cityofchicago.org>; Skiadopoulos, Frank <Frank.Skiadopoulos@cityofchicago.org>; Litherland, Gary <Gary.Litherland@cityofchicago.org>; Caminer, Irene <Irene.Caminer@cityofchicago.org>
Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

Dave and Tom

Per our discussion, NOAA currents showing counter clockwise current in Lake Michigan and winds out of the west. For precaution we will sample for Cr6+ at SWPP Crib hourly once we get the sample bottles from the lab. Tomorrow, out of an abundance of caution, we will do a grid sampling of Lake Michigan, quarter mile off shore near Gary Indiana for Cr6+. Any questions please call me anytime 312-617-4233.

Thanks
Alan

From: McMillan, Dave [<mailto:DAVE.MCMILLAN@Illinois.gov>]
Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 1:53 PM
To: Stark, Alan
Subject: FW: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

Additional information per our discussion.

From: Lauder, Roger
Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 1:50 PM
To: McMillan, Dave <DAVE.MCMILLAN@Illinois.gov>; Cook, David <DAVID.COOK@Illinois.gov>
Subject: FW: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

FYI

From: Borries, Samuel [mailto:borries.samuel@epa.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 1:48 PM
To: Lauder, Roger
Cc: El-Zein, Jason
Subject: [External] FW: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

Roger,
Here is the ER notification report with the current information.

From: Thomas, Craig
Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 1:46 PM
To: R5 ER Notification List <R5_ER_Notification_List@epa.gov>
Cc: Maguire, Andrew <maguire.andrew@epa.gov>; Beslow, Mike <beslow.mike@epa.gov>; Lippert, Jeffrey <lippert.jeffrey@epa.gov>; Behnke, Kristina <behnke.kristina@epa.gov>; Mendez, Thomas <mendez.thomas@epa.gov>
Subject: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

ER Notification #1 (Initial) – U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release, Portage, IN

Region 5 ER Notification #1 (Initial): NRC# 1175399, U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release, Portage, IN

Report as of: 09/23/16 at 13:45 CDT

Overview: On 4/11/17 at approximately 09:30 central time, U.S Steel Corporation discovered a green discoloration in the water near an outfall at their facility in Portage, IN, discharging into Burns Waterway (aka Burns Ditch). U.S. Steel reported this to the National Response Center (NRC #1175399). OSC Thomas contacted the reporting party regarding this incident, and was told the facility was conducting an investigation to determine what it was. OSC Thomas then contacted OSCs Beslow and Mendez, who were nearby, to investigate as well.

Upon arriving at the scene, OSCs Beslow and Mendez met with U.S Steel's environmental manager and were told that the facility had determined the material was hexavalent chrome. This information was immediately shared with United States Coast Guard personnel, who were also responding.

State, Local, and other Federal Agency Action: The USCG, and IDEM have arrived on scene. EPA has notified local water intakes in Gary, East Chicago, and Ogden Dunes. Indiana American Water in Ogden Dunes has shut down their water intake and has approximately 4 hours of reserves.

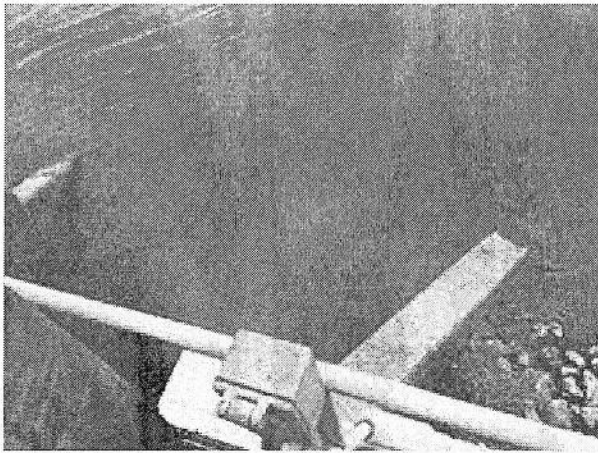
EPA has also notified U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Department of the Interior and the National Park Service.

EPA Actions: EPA OSC Andy Maguire and START are mobilizing to the scene to conduct water sampling. Investigations are under way to determine how the hexavalent chrome released, the amount of hexavalent chrome released and the extent of the release into the waterway.

The facility has minimized the amount of water it is using to essential systems only to reduce through put.

Media Interest: No media interest at this time.

EPA Region 5 OSC contact: Andy Maguire, 312-758-8672



Craig Thomas
US EPA Region 5 On-Scene Coordinator
Emergency Response Branch
77 W. Jackson Blvd., SE-5J
Chicago, IL 60604
312-886-5907 office
312-802-9637 cell



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Poy, Thomas

From: Poy, Thomas
Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 2:54 PM
To: 'Stark, Alan'
Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

Alan: Thanks for the information. I'm sharing what you're doing with the OSCs at the site.

Tom

Tom Poy
Chief, Ground Water and Drinking Water Branch
USEPA - Region 5
(312) 886-5991

From: Stark, Alan [mailto:Alan.Stark@cityofchicago.org]
Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 2:19 PM
To: McMillan, Dave <DAVE.MCMILLAN@Illinois.gov>; Poy, Thomas <poy.thomas@epa.gov>
Cc: Murphy, Barrett <Barrett.Murphy@cityofchicago.org>; Hernandez-Tomlin, Julie <Julie.HernandezTomlin@cityofchicago.org>; Putz, Andrea <Andrea.Putz@cityofchicago.org>; Kelly, Mike <Mike.Kelly@cityofchicago.org>; Schwer, Patrick <Patrick.Schwer@cityofchicago.org>; O'Malley, Mark <Mark.OMalley@cityofchicago.org>; Salinas, Eduardo <Eduardo.Salinas@cityofchicago.org>; Skiadopoulos, Frank <Frank.Skiadopoulos@cityofchicago.org>; Litherland, Gary <Gary.Litherland@cityofchicago.org>; Caminer, Irene <Irene.Caminer@cityofchicago.org>
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Alan

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Additional information per our discussion.

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Subject: FW: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

FYI

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Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 1:48 PM
To: Lauder, Roger
Cc: El-Zein, Jason
Subject: [External] FW: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

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Cc: Maguire, Andrew <maguire.andrew@epa.gov>; Beslow, Mike <beslow.mike@epa.gov>; Lippert, Jeffrey <lippert.jeffrey@epa.gov>; Behnke, Kristina <behnke.kristina@epa.gov>; Mendez, Thomas <mendez.thomas@epa.gov>
Subject: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

ER Notification #1 (Initial) – U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release, Portage, IN

Region 5 ER Notification #1 (Initial): NRC# 1175399, U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release, Portage, IN

Report as of: 09/23/16 at 13:45 CDT

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Upon arriving at the scene, OSCs Beslow and Mendez met with U.S Steel's environmental manager and were told that the facility had determined the material was hexavalent chrome. This information was immediately shared with United States Coast Guard personnel, who were also responding.

State, Local, and other Federal Agency Action: The USCG, and IDEM have arrived on scene. EPA has notified local water intakes in Gary, East Chicago, and Ogden Dunes. Indiana American Water in Ogden Dunes has shut down their water intake and has approximately 4 hours of reserves.

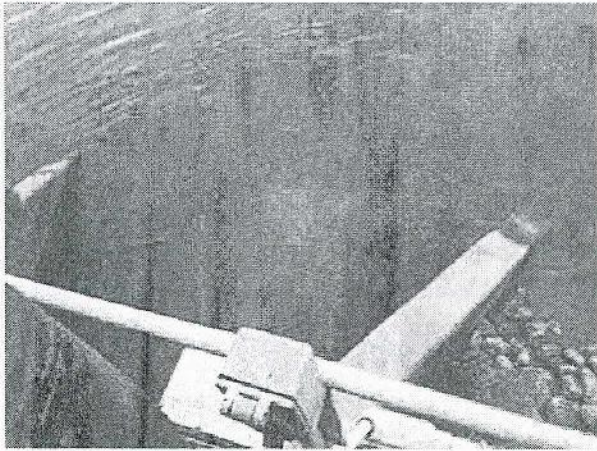
EPA has also notified U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Department of the Interior and the National Park Service.

EPA Actions: EPA OSC Andy Maguire and START are mobilizing to the scene to conduct water sampling. Investigations are under way to determine how the hexavalent chrome released, the amount of hexavalent chrome released and the extent of the release into the waterway.

The facility has minimized the amount of water it is using to essential systems only to reduce through put.

Media Interest: No media interest at this time.

EPA Region 5 OSC contact: Andy Maguire, 312-758-8672



Craig Thomas
US EPA Region 5 On-Scene Coordinator
Emergency Response Branch
77 W. Jackson Blvd., SE-5J
Chicago, IL 60604
312-886-5907 office
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Poy, Thomas

From: Kuefler, Patrick
Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 2:53 PM
To: Poy, Thomas; Borries, Samuel
Cc: Korleski, Christopher; Henry, Timothy; Bahr, Ryan
Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

We asked the OSCs to take samples. They haven't confirmed that they will be able to do so yet but one of the OSCs is a former NPDES inspector. We are planning to inspect tomorrow. We have let IDEM know. Their compliance manager Mark Stanifer was unaware of the situation until a few minutes ago. They don't have any inspectors that can get there today either.

From: Poy, Thomas
Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 2:47 PM
To: Borries, Samuel <borries.samuel@epa.gov>
Cc: Korleski, Christopher <korleski.christopher@epa.gov>; Henry, Timothy <henry.timothy@epa.gov>; Kuefler, Patrick <kuefler.patrick@epa.gov>; Bahr, Ryan <bahr.ryan@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

Sam: FYI...Chicago will be doing some Cr+6 sampling at their Southwest Plant crib and will take their boat out to do some Lake Michigan sampling, as they did during the BP Whiting event in 2014.

Tom

Tom Poy
Chief, Ground Water and Drinking Water Branch
USEPA - Region 5
(312) 886-5991

From: Stark, Alan [<mailto:Alan.Stark@cityofchicago.org>]
Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 2:19 PM
To: McMillan, Dave <DAVE.MCMILLAN@Illinois.gov>; Poy, Thomas <poy.thomas@epa.gov>
Cc: Murphy, Barrett <Barrett.Murphy@cityofchicago.org>; Hernandez-Tomlin, Julie <Julie.HernandezTomlin@cityofchicago.org>; Putz, Andrea <Andrea.Putz@cityofchicago.org>; Kelly, Mike <Mike.Kelly@cityofchicago.org>; Schwer, Patrick <Patrick.Schwer@cityofchicago.org>; O'Malley, Mark <Mark.OMalley@cityofchicago.org>; Salinas, Eduardo <Eduardo.Salinas@cityofchicago.org>; Skiadopoulos, Frank <Frank.Skiadopoulos@cityofchicago.org>; Litherland, Gary <Gary.Litherland@cityofchicago.org>; Caminer, Irene <Irene.Caminer@cityofchicago.org>
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Thanks
Alan

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Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 1:53 PM
To: Stark, Alan
Subject: FW: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

Additional information per our discussion.

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Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 1:50 PM
To: McMillan, Dave <DAVE.MCMILLAN@Illinois.gov>; Cook, David <DAVID.COOK@Illinois.gov>
Subject: FW: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

FYI

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Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 1:48 PM
To: Lauder, Roger
Cc: El-Zein, Jason
Subject: [External] FW: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

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Here is the ER notification report with the current information.

From: Thomas, Craig
Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 1:46 PM
To: R5 ER Notification List <R5_ER_Notification_List@epa.gov>
Cc: Maguire, Andrew <maguire.andrew@epa.gov>; Beslow, Mike <beslow.mike@epa.gov>; Lippert, Jeffrey <lippert.jeffrey@epa.gov>; Behnke, Kristina <behnke.kristina@epa.gov>; Mendez, Thomas <mendez.thomas@epa.gov>
Subject: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

ER Notification #1 (Initial) – U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release, Portage, IN

Region 5 ER Notification #1 (Initial): NRC# 1175399, U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release, Portage, IN

Report as of: 09/23/16 at 13:45 CDT

Overview: On 4/11/17 at approximately 09:30 central time, U.S Steel Corporation discovered a green discoloration in the water near an outfall at their facility in Portage, IN, discharging into Burns Waterway (aka Burns Ditch). U.S. Steel reported this to the National Response Center (NRC #1175399). OSC Thomas contacted the reporting party regarding this incident, and was told the facility was conducting an investigation to determine what it was. OSC Thomas then contacted OSCs Beslow and Mendez, who were nearby, to investigate as well.

Upon arriving at the scene, OSCs Beslow and Mendez met with U.S Steel's environmental manager and were told that the facility had determined the material was hexavalent chrome. This information was immediately shared with United States Coast Guard personnel, who were also responding.

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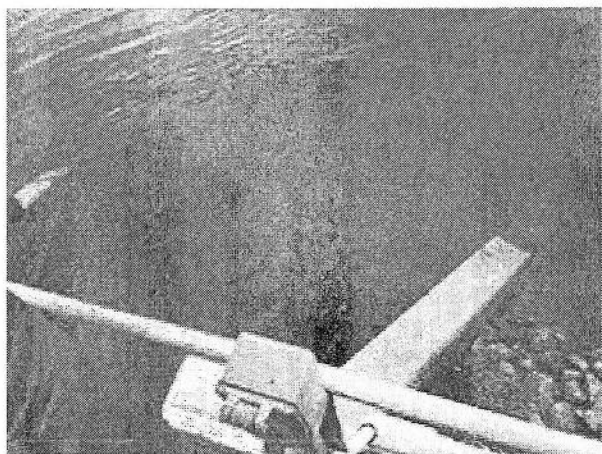
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EPA Actions: EPA OSC Andy Maguire and START are mobilizing to the scene to conduct water sampling. Investigations are under way to determine how the hexavalent chrome released, the amount of hexavalent chrome released and the extent of the release into the waterway.

The facility has minimized the amount of water it is using to essential systems only to reduce through put.

Media Interest: No media interest at this time.

EPA Region 5 OSC contact: Andy Maguire, 312-758-8672



Craig Thomas
US EPA Region 5 On-Scene Coordinator
Emergency Response Branch
77 W. Jackson Blvd., SE-5J
Chicago, IL 60604
312-886-5907 office
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Poy, Thomas

From: Bassler, Rachel
Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 7:26 PM
To: Guerriero, Margaret; Ballotti, Doug; Borries, Samuel; Mankowski, Matthew; El-Zein, Jason; Maguire, Andrew; Beslow, Mike; Thomas, Craig; Deamer, Eileen; Kelley, Jeff; Rowan, Anne; Arcaute, Francisco; Whelan, Ann; Korleski, Christopher; Henry, Timothy; Poy, Thomas; Donnelly, Peggy
Subject: EPA Responds to Chemical Spill at U.S. Steel Facility in Portage, Ind.

FYI, this has been sent to interested media, residents and Congressionals.

EPA RESPONDS TO CHEMICAL SPILL AT U.S. STEEL FACILITY IN PORTAGE, IND.

EPA is responding to a chemical spill at the U.S. Steel facility in Portage, Ind. This morning, the company reported a wastewater discharge to the Burns Waterway, within 100 yards of Lake Michigan. EPA has determined that the wastewater contains hexavalent chromium, a toxic byproduct of industrial processes. EPA is working with the company to contain the spill. At this time, it's not known how much has been spilled.

EPA is monitoring the waterway and Lake Michigan. This sampling does not show that the hexavalent chromium has reached Lake Michigan. EPA will continue to monitor and will provide updates as needed.

EPA is working closely with U.S. Steel and federal, state and local partners. In an abundance of caution, the nearest municipal water source, the Indiana American Water in Ogden Dunes, has shut down its water intake and will use reserve water. Also, the National Park Service has temporarily closed two beaches at Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore (see <https://www.nps.gov/indu/index.htm> for more information).

Poy, Thomas

From: Stark, Alan <Alan.Stark@cityofchicago.org>
Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 8:02 PM
To: Poy, Thomas
Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN
Attachments: removed.txt

Any updates?

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

----- Original message -----

From: "Poy, Thomas" <poy.thomas@epa.gov>
Date: 4/11/17 2:53 PM (GMT-06:00)
To: "Stark, Alan" <Alan.Stark@cityofchicago.org>
Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

Alan: Thanks for the information. I'm sharing what you're doing with the OSCs at the site.

Tom

Tom Poy
Chief, Ground Water and Drinking Water Branch
USEPA - Region 5
(312) 886-5991

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To: McMillan, Dave <DAVE.MCMILLAN@Illinois.gov>; Poy, Thomas <poy.thomas@epa.gov>
Cc: Murphy, Barrett <Barrett.Murphy@cityofchicago.org>; Hernandez-Tomlin, Julie <Julie.HernandezTomlin@cityofchicago.org>; Putz, Andrea <Andrea.Putz@cityofchicago.org>; Kelly, Mike <Mike.Kelly@cityofchicago.org>; Schwer, Patrick <Patrick.Schwer@cityofchicago.org>; O'Malley, Mark <Mark.OMalley@cityofchicago.org>; Salinas, Eduardo <Eduardo.Salinas@cityofchicago.org>; Skiadopoulos, Frank <Frank.Skiadopoulos@cityofchicago.org>; Litherland, Gary <Gary.Litherland@cityofchicago.org>; Caminer, Irene <Irene.Caminer@cityofchicago.org>
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Subject: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

ER Notification #1 (Initial) – U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release, Portage, IN

Region 5 ER Notification #1 (Initial): NRC# 1175399, U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release, Portage, IN

Report as of: 09/23/16 at 13:45 CDT

Overview: On 4/11/17 at approximately 09:30 central time, U.S Steel Corporation discovered a green discoloration in the water near an outfall at their facility in Portage, IN, discharging into Burns Waterway (aka Burns Ditch). U.S. Steel reported this to the National Response Center (NRC #1175399). OSC Thomas contacted the reporting party regarding this incident, and was told the facility was conducting an investigation to determine what it was. OSC Thomas then contacted OSCs Beslow and Mendez, who were nearby, to investigate as well.

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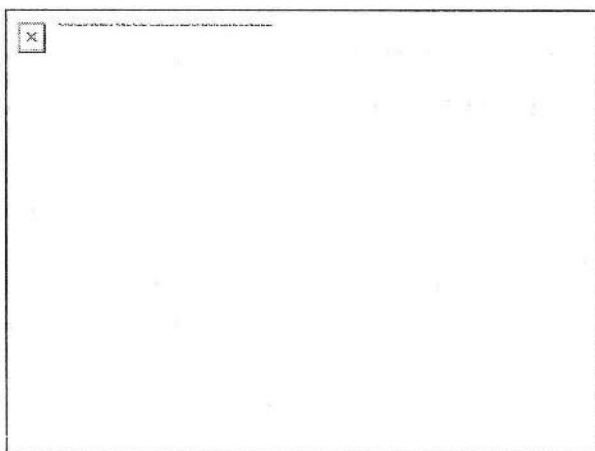
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Poy, Thomas

From: Behnke, Kristina
Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 8:25 PM
To: R5 ER Notification List
Cc: Beslow, Mike; Maguire, Andrew; Mendez, Thomas; Thomas, Craig; Lippert, Jeffrey; Cashmere, Jason; Goeks, Todd; Johnson, Mark; Karecki, Edward
Subject: Region 5 ER Notification #2 (Final): U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release, Portage, IN

Region 5 ER Notification #2 (Final): U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release, Portage, IN (NRC# 1175399)

Report as of: 4/11/17 at 1930 CST

Overview: On 4/11/17 at approximately 9:30 CST, U.S Steel Corporation discovered a green discoloration in the water near an outfall at their facility in Portage, IN, discharging into Burns Waterway (aka Burns Ditch). U.S. Steel reported this to the National Response Center (NRC #1175399). Two EPA OSCs were nearby at another facility went to the site to investigate.

Upon arriving at the scene, OSCs Beslow and Mendez met with U.S Steel's environmental manager and were told that the facility had determined the material was hexavalent chrome.

The investigation into the cause and volume released is still underway. At this time, it appears that hexavalent chrome waste reached the regular treatment plant on site, rather than the chrome treatment plant. At this time, the release is still ongoing at the outfall. The plant side source of the spill has been secured, with the release at the outfall expected to stop soon.

State, Local, and other Federal Agency Action: The USCG, IDEM, National Park Service and Indiana American Water were on scene. EPA notified local water intakes in Gary, East Chicago, and Ogden Dunes. Indiana American Water in Ogden Dunes shut down their intake earlier today. The intake is still shut down at this time, with water reserves struggling. NOAA has provided an ecological risk number and ATSDR has provided a human health number. Out of precaution, the National Park Service has shut down the nearby lakefront and beaches.

EPA Actions: EPA OSCs Maguire, Behnke, and Mendez are on site. A set of samples were collected before dark. EPA and START assisted with taking samples. Samples were taken upstream of the outfall, at the outfall, and downstream of the outfall. Two samples were also taken at the nearby Indiana American Water intake and wet well. A subset of samples, including the samples taken at the water intake, were sent to an on-site lab for rapid turnaround. The highest concentration of in the samples was detected at the outfall was 949 ppb. The samples taken at the American Water intake and wet well were non-detects for total chromium. The rest of the samples will be sent off to a lab in Valparaiso later tonight to be run for hexavalent chromium. Overnight, samples will be taken at the outfall every 2 hours and another full round of samples will be taken tomorrow morning.

Media Interest: There has been significant media interest, and the National Park Service has issued a press release closing two beaches at the Indiana Dunes National Seashore.

EPA Region 5 OSC contact: Andy Maguire, 312-758-8672

This will be the final ER Notification, further updates will be provided by POLREPs.

Kristina Behnke
On-Scene Coordinator

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
77 W. Jackson Blvd. (SE-5J)
Chicago, IL 60604
Office: (312) 353-1057
Fax: (312) 692-2406
Cell: (312) 237-5685
Behnke.Kristina@epa.gov

Poy, Thomas

From: Poy, Thomas
Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 11:40 PM
To: 'Stark, Alan'; Dave McMillan; Mary Hollingsworth; Bryce Feighner (feighnerb@michigan.gov)
Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

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Tom Poy
Chief, Ground Water and Drinking Water Branch
USEPA - Region 5
(312) 886-5991

From: Stark, Alan [mailto:Alan.Stark@cityofchicago.org]
Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 8:02 PM
To: Poy, Thomas <poy.thomas@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

Any updates?

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

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From: "Poy, Thomas" <poy.thomas@epa.gov>
Date: 4/11/17 2:53 PM (GMT-06:00)
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Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

Alan: Thanks for the information. I'm sharing what you're doing with the OSCs at the site.

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From: Stark, Alan [mailto:Alan.Stark@cityofchicago.org]

Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 2:19 PM

To: McMillan, Dave <DAVE.MCMILLAN@Illinois.gov>; Poy, Thomas <poy.thomas@epa.gov>

Cc: Murphy, Barrett <Barrett.Murphy@cityofchicago.org>; Hernandez-Tomlin, Julie

<Julie.HernandezTomlin@cityofchicago.org>; Putz, Andrea <Andrea.Putz@cityofchicago.org>; Kelly, Mike

<Mike.Kelly@cityofchicago.org>; Schwer, Patrick <Patrick.Schwer@cityofchicago.org>; O'Malley, Mark

<Mark.OMalley@cityofchicago.org>; Salinas, Eduardo <Eduardo.Salinas@cityofchicago.org>; Skiadopoulos, Frank

<Frank.Skiadopoulos@cityofchicago.org>; Litherland, Gary <Gary.Litherland@cityofchicago.org>; Caminer, Irene

<Irene.Caminer@cityofchicago.org>

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Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 1:53 PM

To: Stark, Alan

Subject: FW: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

Additional information per our discussion.

From: Lauder, Roger

Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 1:50 PM

To: McMillan, Dave <DAVE.MCMILLAN@Illinois.gov>; Cook, David <DAVID.COOK@Illinois.gov>

Subject: FW: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

FYI

From: Borries, Samuel [mailto:borries.samuel@epa.gov]

Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 1:48 PM

To: Lauder, Roger

Cc: El-Zein, Jason

Subject: [External] FW: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

Roger,

Here is the ER notification report with the current information.

From: Thomas, Craig

Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 1:46 PM

To: R5 ER Notification List <R5_ER_Notification_List@epa.gov>

Cc: Maguire, Andrew <maguire.andrew@epa.gov>; Beslow, Mike <beslow.mike@epa.gov>; Lippert, Jeffrey

<lippert.jeffrey@epa.gov>; Behnke, Kristina <behnke.kristina@epa.gov>; Mendez, Thomas <mendez.thomas@epa.gov>

Subject: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

ER Notification #1 (Initial) – U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release, Portage, IN

Region 5 ER Notification #1 (Initial): NRC# 1175399, U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release, Portage, IN

Report as of: 09/23/16 at 13:45 CDT

Overview: On 4/11/17 at approximately 09:30 central time, U.S Steel Corporation discovered a green discoloration in the water near an outfall at their facility in Portage, IN, discharging into Burns Waterway (aka Burns Ditch). U.S. Steel reported this to the National Response Center (NRC #1175399). OSC Thomas contacted the reporting party regarding this incident, and was told the facility was conducting an investigation to determine what it was. OSC Thomas then contacted OSCs Beslow and Mendez, who were nearby, to investigate as well.

Upon arriving at the scene, OSCs Beslow and Mendez met with U.S Steel's environmental manager and were told that the facility had determined the material was hexavalent chrome. This information was immediately shared with United States Coast Guard personnel, who were also responding.

State, Local, and other Federal Agency Action: The USCG, and IDEM have arrived on scene. EPA has notified local water intakes in Gary, East Chicago, and Ogden Dunes. Indiana American Water in Ogden Dunes has shut down their water intake and has approximately 4 hours of reserves.

EPA has also notified U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Department of the Interior and the National Park Service.

EPA Actions: EPA OSC Andy Maguire and START are mobilizing to the scene to conduct water sampling. Investigations are under way to determine how the hexavalent chrome released, the amount of hexavalent chrome released and the extent of the release into the waterway.

The facility has minimized the amount of water it is using to essential systems only to reduce through put.

Media Interest: No media interest at this time.

EPA Region 5 OSC contact: Andy Maguire, 312-758-8672



Craig Thomas
US EPA Region 5 On-Scene Coordinator

Emergency Response Branch
77 W. Jackson Blvd., SE-5J
Chicago, IL 60604
312-886-5907 office
312-802-9637 cell



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Poy, Thomas

From: Stark, Alan <Alan.Stark@cityofchicago.org>
Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2017 1:44 AM
To: Ames, Mort; Murphy, Barrett; Hernandez-Tomlin, Julie; Litherland, Gary; Caminer, Irene; Putz, Andrea; Poy, Thomas; dave McMillan; Wheat, Christopher
Subject: Fwd: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN
Attachments: removed.bt

Tom
Thank you for the update.
We are collecting hourly at SWPP crib, driving samples to Euro fins this morning, results later afternoon. Lake survey in morning, drive samples in afternoon, results late night. I will forward results to you and Dave as I get them.

Thanks
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Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

----- Original message -----

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Any updates?

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

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Date: 4/11/17 2:53 PM (GMT-06:00)

To: "Stark, Alan" <Alan.Stark@cityofchicago.org>

Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

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<Julie.HernandezTomlin@cityofchicago.org>; Putz, Andrea <Andrea.Putz@cityofchicago.org>; Kelly, Mike

<Mike.Kelly@cityofchicago.org>; Schwer, Patrick <Patrick.Schwer@cityofchicago.org>; O'Malley, Mark

<Mark.OMalley@cityofchicago.org>; Salinas, Eduardo <Eduardo.Salinas@cityofchicago.org>; Skiadopoulos, Frank

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<Irene.Caminer@cityofchicago.org>

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Dave and Tom

Per our discussion, NOAA currents showing counter clockwise current in Lake Michigan and winds out of the west. For precaution we will sample for Cr6+ at SWPP Crib hourly once we get the sample bottles from the lab. Tomorrow, out of an abundance of caution, we will do a grid sampling of Lake Michigan, quarter mile off shore near Gary Indiana for Cr6+. Any questions please call me anytime 312-617-4233.

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Additional information per our discussion.

From: Lauder, Roger

Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 1:50 PM

To: McMillan, Dave <DAVE.MCMILLAN@Illinois.gov>; Cook, David <DAVID.COOK@Illinois.gov>
Subject: FW: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

FYI

From: Borries, Samuel [mailto:borries.samuel@epa.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 1:48 PM
To: Lauder, Roger
Cc: El-Zein, Jason
Subject: [External] FW: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

Roger,
Here is the ER notification report with the current information.

From: Thomas, Craig
Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 1:46 PM
To: R5 ER Notification List <R5_ER_Notification_List@epa.gov>
Cc: Maguire, Andrew <maguire.andrew@epa.gov>; Beslow, Mike <beslow.mike@epa.gov>; Lippert, Jeffrey <lippert.jeffrey@epa.gov>; Behnke, Kristina <behnke.kristina@epa.gov>; Mendez, Thomas <mendez.thomas@epa.gov>
Subject: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

ER Notification #1 (Initial) – U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release, Portage, IN

Region 5 ER Notification #1 (Initial): NRC# 1175399, U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release, Portage, IN

Report as of: 09/23/16 at 13:45 CDT

Overview: On 4/11/17 at approximately 09:30 central time, U.S Steel Corporation discovered a green discoloration in the water near an outfall at their facility in Portage, IN, discharging into Burns Waterway (aka Burns Ditch). U.S. Steel reported this to the National Response Center (NRC #1175399). OSC Thomas contacted the reporting party regarding this incident, and was told the facility was conducting an investigation to determine what it was. OSC Thomas then contacted OSCs Beslow and Mendez, who were nearby, to investigate as well.

Upon arriving at the scene, OSCs Beslow and Mendez met with U.S Steel's environmental manager and were told that the facility had determined the material was hexavalent chrome. This information was immediately shared with United States Coast Guard personnel, who were also responding.

State, Local, and other Federal Agency Action: The USCG, and IDEM have arrived on scene. EPA has notified local water intakes in Gary, East Chicago, and Ogden Dunes. Indiana American Water in Ogden Dunes has shut down their water intake and has approximately 4 hours of reserves.

EPA has also notified U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Department of the Interior and the National Park Service.

EPA Actions: EPA OSC Andy Maguire and START are mobilizing to the scene to conduct water sampling. Investigations are under way to determine how the hexavalent chrome released, the amount of hexavalent chrome released and the extent of the release into the waterway.

The facility has minimized the amount of water it is using to essential systems only to reduce through put.

Media Interest: No media interest at this time.

EPA Region 5 OSC contact: Andy Maguire, 312-758-8672



Craig Thomas
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Subject: Fwd: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

FYI...from Chicago Dept of Water Mgmt

Tom Poy
Chief, Ground and Drinking Water Branch
USEPA - Region 5
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Date: April 12, 2017 at 1:44:08 AM CDT
To: "Ames, Mort" <Mort.Ames@cityofchicago.org>, "Murphy, Barrett" <Barrett.Murphy@cityofchicago.org>, "Hernandez-Tomlin, Julie" <Julie.HernandezTomlin@cityofchicago.org>, "Litherland, Gary" <Gary.Litherland@cityofchicago.org>, "Caminer, Irene" <Irene.Caminer@cityofchicago.org>, "Putz, Andrea" <Andrea.Putz@cityofchicago.org>, "Poy, Thomas" <poy.thomas@epa.gov>, "dave McMillan" <dave.mcmillan@illinois.gov>, "Wheat, Christopher" <Christopher.Wheat@cityofchicago.org>
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Subject: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

ER Notification #1 (Initial) – U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release, Portage, IN

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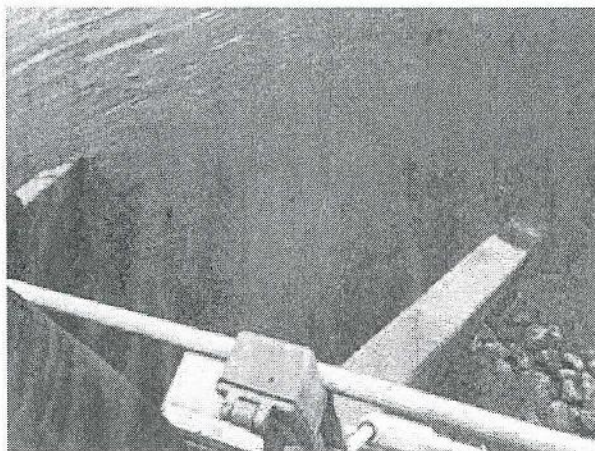
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We are collecting hourly at SWPP crib, driving samples to Euro fins this morning, results later afternoon. Lake survey in morning, drive samples in afternoon, results late night. I will forward results to you and Dave as I get them.

Thanks
Alan

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

----- Original message -----
From: "Poy, Thomas" <poy.thomas@epa.gov>

Date: 4/11/17 11:40 PM (GMT-06:00)

To: "Stark, Alan" <Alan.Stark@cityofchicago.org>, Dave McMillan
<dave.mcmillan@illinois.gov>, Mary Hollingsworth <MHolling@idem.IN.gov>,
feighnerb@michigan.gov

Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

The last that I heard, they were still investigating the cause and volume of the release. A set of samples were collected before dark. Samples were taken upstream of the outfall, at the outfall, and downstream of the outfall. Two samples were also taken at the nearby Indiana American Water intake and wet well. A subset of samples, including the samples taken at the water intake, were sent to an on-site lab for rapid turnaround. The highest concentration of in the samples was detected at the outfall was 949 ppb. The samples taken at the American Water intake and wet well were non-detects for total chromium. The rest of the samples will be sent off to a lab in Valparaiso later tonight to be run for hexavalent chromium. Overnight, samples will be taken at the outfall every 2 hours and another full round of samples will be taken tomorrow morning

Tom Poy
Chief, Ground Water and Drinking Water Branch
USEPA - Region 5
(312) 886-5991

From: Stark, Alan [mailto:Alan.Stark@cityofchicago.org]
Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 8:02 PM
To: Poy, Thomas <poy.thomas@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

Any updates?

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

----- Original message -----

From: "Poy, Thomas" <poy.thomas@epa.gov>
Date: 4/11/17 2:53 PM (GMT-06:00)
To: "Stark, Alan" <Alan.Stark@cityofchicago.org>
Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

Alan: Thanks for the information. I'm sharing what you're doing with the OSCs at the site.

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From: Stark, Alan [<mailto:Alan.Stark@cityofchicago.org>]
Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 2:19 PM
To: McMillan, Dave <DAVE.MCMILLAN@Illinois.gov>; Poy, Thomas <poy.thomas@epa.gov>
Cc: Murphy, Barrett <Barrett.Murphy@cityofchicago.org>; Hernandez-Tomlin, Julie <Julie.HernandezTomlin@cityofchicago.org>; Putz, Andrea <Andrea.Putz@cityofchicago.org>; Kelly, Mike <Mike.Kelly@cityofchicago.org>; Schwer, Patrick <Patrick.Schwer@cityofchicago.org>; O'Malley, Mark <Mark.OMalley@cityofchicago.org>; Salinas, Eduardo <Eduardo.Salinas@cityofchicago.org>; Skiadopoulos, Frank <Frank.Skiadopoulos@cityofchicago.org>; Litherland, Gary <Gary.Litherland@cityofchicago.org>; Caminer, Irene <Irene.Caminer@cityofchicago.org>
Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

Dave and Tom

Per our discussion, NOAA currents showing counter clockwise current in Lake Michigan and winds out of the west. For precaution we will sample for Cr6+ at SWPP Crib hourly once we get the sample bottles from the lab. Tomorrow, out of an abundance of caution, we will do a grid sampling of Lake Michigan, quarter mile off shore near Gary Indiana for Cr6+. Any questions please call me anytime 312-617-4233.

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Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 1:53 PM
To: Stark, Alan
Subject: FW: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

Additional information per our discussion.

From: Lauder, Roger
Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 1:50 PM
To: McMillan, Dave <DAVE.MCMILLAN@Illinois.gov>; Cook, David <DAVID.COOK@Illinois.gov>
Subject: FW: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

FYI

From: Borries, Samuel [<mailto:borries.samuel@epa.gov>]
Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 1:48 PM
To: Lauder, Roger
Cc: El-Zein, Jason
Subject: [External] FW: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

Roger,
Here is the ER notification report with the current information.

From: Thomas, Craig
Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 1:46 PM
To: R5 ER Notification List <R5_ER_Notification_List@epa.gov>
Cc: Maguire, Andrew <maguire.andrew@epa.gov>; Beslow, Mike <beslow.mike@epa.gov>; Lippert, Jeffrey <lippert.jeffrey@epa.gov>; Behnke, Kristina <behnke.kristina@epa.gov>; Mendez, Thomas <mendez.thomas@epa.gov>
Subject: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

ER Notification #1 (Initial) – U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release, Portage, IN

Region 5 ER Notification #1 (Initial): NRC# 1175399, U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release, Portage, IN

Report as of: 09/23/16 at 13:45 CDT

Overview: On 4/11/17 at approximately 09:30 central time, U.S Steel Corporation discovered a green discoloration in the water near an outfall at their facility in Portage, IN, discharging into Burns Waterway (aka Burns Ditch). U.S. Steel reported this to the National Response Center (NRC #1175399). OSC Thomas contacted the reporting party regarding this incident, and was told the facility was conducting an investigation to determine what it was. OSC Thomas then contacted OSCs Beslow and Mendez, who were nearby, to investigate as well.

Upon arriving at the scene, OSCs Beslow and Mendez met with U.S Steel's environmental manager and were told that the facility had determined the material was hexavalent chrome. This information was immediately shared with United States Coast Guard personnel, who were also responding.

State, Local, and other Federal Agency Action: The USCG, and IDEM have arrived on scene. EPA has notified local water intakes in Gary, East Chicago, and Ogden Dunes. Indiana American Water in Ogden Dunes has shut down their water intake and has approximately 4 hours of reserves.

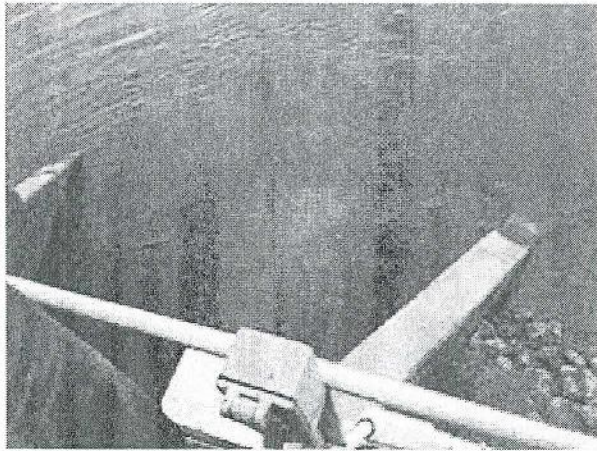
EPA has also notified U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Department of the Interior and the National Park Service.

EPA Actions: EPA OSC Andy Maguire and START are mobilizing to the scene to conduct water sampling. Investigations are under way to determine how the hexavalent chrome released, the amount of hexavalent chrome released and the extent of the release into the waterway.

The facility has minimized the amount of water it is using to essential systems only to reduce through put.

Media Interest: No media interest at this time.

EPA Region 5 OSC contact: Andy Maguire, 312-758-8672



Craig Thomas
US EPA Region 5 On-Scene Coordinator
Emergency Response Branch
77 W. Jackson Blvd., SE-5J
Chicago, IL 60604
312-886-5907 office
312-802-9637 cell



State of Illinois - CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE: The information contained in this communication is confidential, may be attorney-client privileged or attorney work product, may constitute inside information or internal deliberative staff communication, and is intended only for the use of the addressee. Unauthorized use, disclosure or copying of this communication or any part thereof is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful. If you have received this communication in error, please notify the sender immediately by return e-mail and destroy this communication and all copies thereof, including all attachments. Receipt by an unintended recipient does not waive attorney-client privilege, attorney work product privilege, or any other exemption from disclosure.

Poy, Thomas

From: Bahr, Ryan
Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2017 8:19 AM
To: Poy, Thomas
Cc: Kuefler, Patrick
Subject: FW: Region 5 ER Notification #2 (Final): U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release, Portage, IN

See info on drinking water . . .

From: Maraldo, Dean
Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2017 7:15 AM
To: Kuefler, Patrick <kuefler.patrick@epa.gov>; Bahr, Ryan <bahr.ryan@epa.gov>
Cc: Lenell, Brian <lenell.brian@epa.gov>; Jurevis, John <Jurevis.John@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: Region 5 ER Notification #2 (Final): U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release, Portage, IN

Fyi...

From: Behnke, Kristina
Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 8:25 PM
To: R5 ER Notification List <R5_ER_Notification_List@epa.gov>
Cc: Beslow, Mike <beslow.mike@epa.gov>; Maguire, Andrew <maguire.andrew@epa.gov>; Mendez, Thomas <mendez.thomas@epa.gov>; Thomas, Craig <thomas.craig@epa.gov>; Lippert, Jeffrey <lippert.jeffrey@epa.gov>; Cashmere, Jason <cashmere.jason@epa.gov>; Goeks, Todd <goeks.todd@epa.gov>; Johnson, Mark <johnson.mark@epa.gov>; Karecki, Edward <karecki.edward@epa.gov>
Subject: Region 5 ER Notification #2 (Final): U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release, Portage, IN

Region 5 ER Notification #2 (Final): U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release, Portage, IN (NRC# 1175399)

Report as of: 4/11/17 at 1930 CST

Overview: On 4/11/17 at approximately 9:30 CST, U.S Steel Corporation discovered a green discoloration in the water near an outfall at their facility in Portage, IN, discharging into Burns Waterway (aka Burns Ditch). U.S. Steel reported this to the National Response Center (NRC #1175399). Two EPA OSCs were nearby at another facility went to the site to investigate.

Upon arriving at the scene, OSCs Beslow and Mendez met with U.S Steel's environmental manager and were told that the facility had determined the material was hexavalent chrome.

The investigation into the cause and volume released is still underway. At this time, it appears that hexavalent chrome waste reached the regular treatment plant on site, rather than the chrome treatment plant. At this time, the release is still ongoing at the outfall. The plant side source of the spill has been secured, with the release at the outfall expected to stop soon.

State, Local, and other Federal Agency Action: The USCG, IDEM, National Park Service and Indiana American Water were on scene. EPA notified local water intakes in Gary, East Chicago, and Ogden Dunes. Indiana American Water in Ogden Dunes shut down their intake earlier today. The intake is still shut down at this time, with water reserves struggling. NOAA has provided an ecological risk number and ATSDR has provided a human health number. Out of precaution, the National Park Service has shut down the nearby lakefront and beaches.

EPA Actions: EPA OSCs Maguire, Behnke, and Mendez are on site. A set of samples were collected before dark. EPA and START assisted with taking samples. Samples were taken upstream of the outfall, at the outfall, and downstream of the outfall. Two samples were also taken at the nearby Indiana American Water intake and wet well. A subset of samples, including the samples taken at the water intake, were sent to an on-site lab for rapid turnaround. The highest concentration of in the samples was detected at the outfall was 949 ppb. The samples taken at the American Water intake and wet well were non-detects for total chromium. The rest of the samples will be sent off to a lab in Valparaiso later tonight to be run for hexavalent chromium. Overnight, samples will be taken at the outfall every 2 hours and another full round of samples will be taken tomorrow morning.

Media Interest: There has been significant media interest, and the National Park Service has issued a press release closing two beaches at the Indiana Dunes National Seashore.

EPA Region 5 OSC contact: Andy Maguire, 312-758-8672

This will be the final ER Notification, further updates will be provided by POLREPs.

Kristina Behnke
On-Scene Coordinator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
77 W. Jackson Blvd. (SE-5J)
Chicago, IL 60604
Office: (312) 353-1057
Fax: (312) 692-2406
Cell: (312) 237-5685
Behnke.Kristina@epa.gov

Poy, Thomas

From: Stark, Alan <Alan.Stark@cityofchicago.org>
Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2017 10:08 AM
To: Ames, Mort; Murphy, Barrett; Hernandez-Tomlin, Julie; Litherland, Gary; Caminer, Irene; Putz, Andrea; Poy, Thomas; dave McMillan; Wheat, Christopher; McMillan, Dave; Kelly, Mike; Schwer, Patrick; Skiadopoulos, Frank; O'Malley, Mark; Salinas, Eduardo; Litherland, Gary
Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

Hi Tom,

Any updates, release quantity and concentration?

Lake currents still counter clockwise. Hourly samples from SWPP's 68th Street Crib complex in route to Eurofins in South Bend. Lake Survey underway, samples will be driven to Eurofins once they boat gets back. Results will be forwarded as I get them. Crib sampling now every two hours lab results will dictated further sampling and possible mitigation.

Thanks
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Any updates?

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

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Additional information per our discussion.

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Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 1:50 PM
To: McMillan, Dave <DAVE.MCMILLAN@Illinois.gov>; Cook, David <DAVID.COOK@Illinois.gov>
Subject: FW: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

FYI

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To: R5 ER Notification List <R5_ER_Notification_List@epa.gov>
Cc: Maguire, Andrew <maguire.andrew@epa.gov>; Beslow, Mike <beslow.mike@epa.gov>; Lippert, Jeffrey <lippert.jeffrey@epa.gov>; Behnke, Kristina <behnke.kristina@epa.gov>; Mendez, Thomas <mendez.thomas@epa.gov>
Subject: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

ER Notification #1 (Initial) – U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release, Portage, IN

Region 5 ER Notification #1 (Initial): NRC# 1175399, U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release, Portage, IN

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Media Interest: No media interest at this time.

EPA Region 5 OSC contact: Andy Maguire, 312-758-8672



Craig Thomas
US EPA Region 5 On-Scene Coordinator
Emergency Response Branch
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Poy, Thomas

From: Poy, Thomas
Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2017 10:35 AM
To: 'Stark, Alan'; Ames, Mort; Murphy, Barrett; Hernandez-Tomlin, Julie; Litherland, Gary; Caminer, Irene; Putz, Andrea; dave McMillan; Wheat, Christopher; McMillan, Dave; Kelly, Mike; Schwer, Patrick; Skiadopoulos, Frank; O'Malley, Mark; Salinas, Eduardo; Litherland, Gary
Cc: Mary Hollingsworth; Korleski, Christopher; Bryce Feighner (feighnerb@michigan.gov)
Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

Hi Alan: No update on quantity or concentration. The sampling from yesterday was indicating that the chromium had not reached Lake Michigan. More sampling is going to be done today.

Tom

Tom Poy
Chief, Ground Water and Drinking Water Branch
USEPA - Region 5
(312) 886-5991

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Cc: Murphy, Barrett <Barrett.Murphy@cityofchicago.org>; Hernandez-Tomlin, Julie

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<Frank.Skiadopoulos@cityofchicago.org>; Litherland, Gary <Gary.Litherland@cityofchicago.org>; Caminer, Irene

<Irene.Caminer@cityofchicago.org>

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Additional information per our discussion.

From: Lauder, Roger

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Subject: FW: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

FYI

From: Borries, Samuel [<mailto:borries.samuel@epa.gov>]

Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 1:48 PM

To: Lauder, Roger

Cc: El-Zein, Jason

Subject: [External] FW: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

Roger,

Here is the ER notification report with the current information.

From: Thomas, Craig

Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 1:46 PM

To: R5 ER Notification List <R5_ER_Notification_List@epa.gov>

Cc: Maguire, Andrew <maguire.andrew@epa.gov>; Beslow, Mike <beslow.mike@epa.gov>; Lippert, Jeffrey <lippert.jeffrey@epa.gov>; Behnke, Kristina <behnke.kristina@epa.gov>; Mendez, Thomas <mendez.thomas@epa.gov>

Subject: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

ER Notification #1 (Initial) – U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release, Portage, IN

Region 5 ER Notification #1 (Initial): NRC# 1175399, U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release, Portage, IN

Report as of: 09/23/16 at 13:45 CDT

Overview: On 4/11/17 at approximately 09:30 central time, U.S Steel Corporation discovered a green discoloration in the water near an outfall at their facility in Portage, IN, discharging into Burns Waterway (aka Burns Ditch). U.S. Steel reported this to the National Response Center (NRC #1175399). OSC Thomas contacted the reporting party regarding this incident, and was told the facility was conducting an investigation to determine what it was. OSC Thomas then contacted OSCs Beslow and Mendez, who were nearby, to investigate as well.

Upon arriving at the scene, OSCs Beslow and Mendez met with U.S Steel's environmental manager and were told that the facility had determined the material was hexavalent chrome. This information was immediately shared with United States Coast Guard personnel, who were also responding.

State, Local, and other Federal Agency Action: The USCG, and IDEM have arrived on scene. EPA has notified local water intakes in Gary, East Chicago, and Ogden Dunes. Indiana American Water in Ogden Dunes has shut down their water intake and has approximately 4 hours of reserves.

EPA has also notified U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Department of the Interior and the National Park Service.

EPA Actions: EPA OSC Andy Maguire and START are mobilizing to the scene to conduct water sampling. Investigations are under way to determine how the hexavalent chrome released, the amount of hexavalent chrome released and the extent of the release into the waterway.

The facility has minimized the amount of water it is using to essential systems only to reduce through put.

Media Interest: No media interest at this time.

EPA Region 5 OSC contact: Andy Maguire, 312-758-8672



Craig Thomas
US EPA Region 5 On-Scene Coordinator
Emergency Response Branch
77 W. Jackson Blvd., SE-5J
Chicago, IL 60604
312-886-5907 office
312-802-9637 cell



State of Illinois - CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE: The information contained in this communication is confidential, may be attorney-client privileged or attorney work product, may constitute inside information or internal deliberative staff communication, and is intended only for the use of the addressee. Unauthorized use, disclosure or copying of this communication or any part thereof is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful. If you have received this communication in error, please notify the sender immediately by return e-mail and destroy this communication and all copies thereof, including all attachments. Receipt by an unintended recipient does not waive attorney-client privilege, attorney work product privilege, or any other exemption from disclosure.

Poy, Thomas

From: Stark, Alan <Alan.Stark@cityofchicago.org>
Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2017 10:37 AM
To: Poy, Thomas; Ames, Mort; Murphy, Barrett; Hernandez-Tomlin, Julie; Litherland, Gary; Caminer, Irene; Putz, Andrea; dave McMillan; Wheat, Christopher; McMillan, Dave; Kelly, Mike; Schwer, Patrick; Skiadopoulos, Frank; O'Malley, Mark; Salinas, Eduardo; Litherland, Gary
Cc: Mary Hollingsworth; Korleski, Christopher; feighnerb@michigan.gov
Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

Have they stopped the outfall?

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Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2017 10:35 AM
To: Stark, Alan; Ames, Mort; Murphy, Barrett; Hernandez-Tomlin, Julie; Litherland, Gary; Caminer, Irene; Putz, Andrea; dave McMillan; Wheat, Christopher; McMillan, Dave; Kelly, Mike; Schwer, Patrick; Skiadopoulos, Frank; O'Malley, Mark; Salinas, Eduardo; Litherland, Gary
Cc: Mary Hollingsworth; Korleski, Christopher; feighnerb@michigan.gov
Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

Hi Alan: No update on quantity or concentration. The sampling from yesterday was indicating that the chromium had not reached Lake Michigan. More sampling is going to be done today.

Tom

Tom Poy
Chief, Ground Water and Drinking Water Branch
USEPA - Region 5
(312) 886-5991

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To: Ames, Mort <Mort.Ames@cityofchicago.org>; Murphy, Barrett <Barrett.Murphy@cityofchicago.org>; Hernandez-Tomlin, Julie <Julie.HernandezTomlin@cityofchicago.org>; Litherland, Gary <Gary.Litherland@cityofchicago.org>; Caminer, Irene <Irene.Caminer@cityofchicago.org>; Putz, Andrea <Andrea.Putz@cityofchicago.org>; Poy, Thomas <poy.thomas@epa.gov>; dave McMillan <dave.mcmillan@illinois.gov>; Wheat, Christopher <Christopher.Wheat@cityofchicago.org>; McMillan, Dave <DAVE.MCMILLAN@Illinois.gov>; Kelly, Mike <Mike.Kelly@cityofchicago.org>; Schwer, Patrick <Patrick.Schwer@cityofchicago.org>; Skiadopoulos, Frank <Frank.Skiadopoulos@cityofchicago.org>; O'Malley, Mark <Mark.OMalley@cityofchicago.org>; Salinas, Eduardo <Eduardo.Salinas@cityofchicago.org>; Litherland, Gary <Gary.Litherland@cityofchicago.org>
Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

Hi Tom,

Any updates, release quantity and concentration?

Lake currents still counter clockwise. Hourly samples from SWPP's 68th Street Crib complex in route to Eurofins in South Bend. Lake Survey underway, samples will be driven to Eurofins once they boat gets back. Results will be forwarded as I get them. Crib sampling now every two hours lab results will dictated further sampling and possible mitigation.

Thanks
Alan

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To: Ames, Mort; Murphy, Barrett; Hernandez-Tomlin, Julie; Litherland, Gary; Caminer, Irene; Putz, Andrea; Poy, Thomas; dave McMillan; Wheat, Christopher

Subject: Fwd: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

Tom

Thank you for the update.

We are collecting hourly at SWPP crib, driving samples to Euro fins this morning, results later afternoon. Lake survey in morning, drive samples in afternoon, results late night. I will forward results to you and Dave as I get them.

Thanks

Alan

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

----- Original message -----

From: "Poy, Thomas" <poy.thomas@epa.gov>

Date: 4/11/17 11:40 PM (GMT-06:00)

To: "Stark, Alan" <Alan.Stark@cityofchicago.org>, Dave McMillan <dave.mcmillan@illinois.gov>, Mary Hollingsworth <MHolling@idem.IN.gov>, feighnerb@michigan.gov

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A set of samples were collected before dark. Samples were taken upstream of the outfall, at the outfall, and downstream of the outfall. Two samples were also taken at the nearby Indiana American Water intake and wet well. A subset of samples, including the samples taken at the water intake, were sent to an on-site lab for rapid turnaround. The highest concentration of in the samples was detected at the outfall was 949 ppb. The samples taken at the American Water intake and wet well were non-detects for total chromium. The rest of the samples will be sent off to a lab in Valparaiso later tonight to be run for hexavalent chromium. Overnight, samples will be taken at the outfall every 2 hours and another full round of samples will be taken tomorrow morning

Tom Poy

Chief, Ground Water and Drinking Water Branch

USEPA - Region 5

(312) 886-5991

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Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

Any updates?

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

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Date: 4/11/17 2:53 PM (GMT-06:00)
To: "Stark, Alan" <Alan.Stark@cityofchicago.org>
Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

Alan: Thanks for the information. I'm sharing what you're doing with the OSCs at the site.

Tom

Tom Poy
Chief, Ground Water and Drinking Water Branch
USEPA - Region 5
(312) 886-5991

From: Stark, Alan [<mailto:Alan.Stark@cityofchicago.org>]
Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 2:19 PM
To: McMillan, Dave <DAVE.MCMILLAN@Illinois.gov>; Poy, Thomas <poy.thomas@epa.gov>
Cc: Murphy, Barrett <Barrett.Murphy@cityofchicago.org>; Hernandez-Tomlin, Julie <Julie.HernandezTomlin@cityofchicago.org>; Putz, Andrea <Andrea.Putz@cityofchicago.org>; Kelly, Mike <Mike.Kelly@cityofchicago.org>; Schwer, Patrick <Patrick.Schwer@cityofchicago.org>; O'Malley, Mark <Mark.OMalley@cityofchicago.org>; Salinas, Eduardo <Eduardo.Salinas@cityofchicago.org>; Skiadopoulos, Frank <Frank.Skiadopoulos@cityofchicago.org>; Litherland, Gary <Gary.Litherland@cityofchicago.org>; Caminer, Irene <Irene.Caminer@cityofchicago.org>
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Dave and Tom

Per our discussion, NOAA currents showing counter clockwise current in Lake Michigan and winds out of the west. For precaution we will sample for Cr6+ at SWPP Crib hourly once we get the sample bottles from the lab. Tomorrow, out of an abundance of caution, we will do a grid sampling of Lake Michigan, quarter mile off shore near Gary Indiana for Cr6+. Any questions please call me anytime 312-617-4233.

Thanks
Alan

From: McMillan, Dave [<mailto:DAVE.MCMILLAN@Illinois.gov>]
Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 1:53 PM
To: Stark, Alan
Subject: FW: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

Additional information per our discussion.

From: Lauder, Roger
Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 1:50 PM
To: McMillan, Dave <DAVE.MCMILLAN@Illinois.gov>; Cook, David <DAVID.COOK@Illinois.gov>
Subject: FW: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

FYI

From: Borries, Samuel [<mailto:borries.samuel@epa.gov>]
Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 1:48 PM
To: Lauder, Roger
Cc: El-Zein, Jason
Subject: [External] FW: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

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Cc: Maguire, Andrew <maguire.andrew@epa.gov>; Beslow, Mike <beslow.mike@epa.gov>; Lippert, Jeffrey <lippert.jeffrey@epa.gov>; Behnke, Kristina <behnke.kristina@epa.gov>; Mendez, Thomas <mendez.thomas@epa.gov>
Subject: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

ER Notification #1 (Initial) – U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release, Portage, IN

Region 5 ER Notification #1 (Initial): NRC# 1175399, U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release, Portage, IN

Report as of: 09/23/16 at 13:45 CDT

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Upon arriving at the scene, OSCs Beslow and Mendez met with U.S Steel's environmental manager and were told that the facility had determined the material was hexavalent chrome. This information was immediately shared with United States Coast Guard personnel, who were also responding.

State, Local, and other Federal Agency Action: The USCG, and IDEM have arrived on scene. EPA has notified local water intakes in Gary, East Chicago, and Ogden Dunes. Indiana American Water in Ogden Dunes has shut down their water intake and has approximately 4 hours of reserves.

EPA has also notified U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Department of the Interior and the National Park Service.

EPA Actions: EPA OSC Andy Maguire and START are mobilizing to the scene to conduct water sampling. Investigations are under way to determine how the hexavalent chrome released, the amount of hexavalent chrome released and the extent of the release into the waterway.

The facility has minimized the amount of water it is using to essential systems only to reduce through put.

Media Interest: No media interest at this time.

EPA Region 5 OSC contact: Andy Maguire, 312-758-8672



Craig Thomas
US EPA Region 5 On-Scene Coordinator
Emergency Response Branch
77 W. Jackson Blvd., SE-5J
Chicago, IL 60604
312-886-5907 office
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Poy, Thomas

From: Poy, Thomas
Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2017 10:51 AM
To: Borries, Samuel
Subject: US Steel

Sam: Have you heard whether the release from the outfall has been stopped? The last update from yesterday said it was expected to stop since the source was secured.

Tom

Tom Poy
Chief, Ground Water and Drinking Water Branch
USEPA - Region 5
(312) 886-5991

Poy, Thomas

From: Mendez, Thomas
Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2017 11:33 AM
To: Borries, Samuel; El-Zein, Jason; Brown, Jaime; Ribordy, Michael; Mankowski, Matthew; Augustyn, James; Kelley, Jeff; Bassler, Rachel; Deamer, Eileen; dgreinke@idem.IN.gov
Cc: Behnke, Kristina; Beslow, Mike; Maguire, Andrew; Thomas, Craig; Lippert, Jeffrey; Cashmere, Jason; Goeks, Todd; Johnson, Mark; Karecki, Edward; Rowan, Anne; Reshkin, Karen; Maraldo, Dean; Donnelly, Peggy; Poy, Thomas
Subject: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release, Portage, IN - 4/12/17 AM update
Attachments: IMG_0104.jpg; 2.jpg; 1.jpg

Update as of: 4/12/17 at 10:30 CST

Overview: On 4/12/17 at approximately 9:00 CST, Stakeholders convened to discuss the ongoing response at US Steel regarding the release of hexavalent chrome. Stakeholders present included USEPA, US Steel, IDEM, National Park Service and Indiana American Water, Portage Police and a representatives for the beaches of City of Portage.

- US Steel has alleged that the source of the active release has been stopped.
- Active residual can still be seen in water sampling.
- Levels of chrome at the outfall were as high as 2231 ug/L overnight.

EPA, State, Local, and other Federal Agency Action:

- Indiana American Water's intake is still currently shut down.
 - Sampling results of water intake is showing samples slightly above the detection limit but were rerun for confirmation and found to be at or below the limit. Additional sampling is going to be performed.
- Sampling has started inside Burns Ditch this morning
 - Sampling will duplicate the spots sampled on 4/11/17 as well as adding a mid-water depth sample taken with tubing attached to a pump on the boat.
- National Park Service has currently closed numerous beaches both east and west of Burns Ditch.
 - National Park Service's regional offices have suggested that they will not reopen the beaches without this additional sampling with includes a shore sediment sample.
 - EPA with National Park Service have identified additional sampling locations both east and west of Burns Ditch along the lakeshore where both water and sediment samples will be taken.

EPA Region 5 OSC contact: Andy Maguire, 312-758-8672

Poy, Thomas

From: Borries, Samuel
Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2017 11:38 AM
To: Poy, Thomas
Subject: RE: US Steel

Hi Tom,

Looks like only residual may still be present in the discharge. Tom Mendez just sent an update to you.
Sam.

From: Poy, Thomas
Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2017 10:51 AM
To: Borries, Samuel <borries.samuel@epa.gov>
Subject: US Steel

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From: Poy, Thomas
Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2017 12:10 PM
To: 'Stark, Alan'; Ames, Mort; Murphy, Barrett; Hernandez-Tomlin, Julie; Litherland, Gary; Caminer, Irene; Putz, Andrea; dave McMillan; Wheat, Christopher; McMillan, Dave; Kelly, Mike; Schwer, Patrick; Skiadopoulos, Frank; O'Malley, Mark; Salinas, Eduardo; Litherland, Gary
Cc: Mary Hollingsworth; Korleski, Christopher; feighnerb@michigan.gov
Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

I believe the source of the active release has been stopped and it is just residual in the outfall now.

Tom

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(312) 886-5991

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Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2017 10:37 AM
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Cc: Mary Hollingsworth <MHolling@idem.IN.gov>; Korleski, Christopher <korleski.christopher@epa.gov>; feighnerb@michigan.gov
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Hi Alan: No update on quantity or concentration. The sampling from yesterday was indicating that the chromium had not reached Lake Michigan. More sampling is going to be done today.

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<Irene.Camner@cityofchicago.org>

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Subject: FW: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

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ER Notification #1 (Initial) – U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release, Portage, IN

Region 5 ER Notification #1 (Initial): NRC# 1175399, U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release, Portage, IN

Report as of: 09/23/16 at 13:45 CDT

Overview: On 4/11/17 at approximately 09:30 central time, U.S Steel Corporation discovered a green discoloration in the water near an outfall at their facility in Portage, IN, discharging into Burns Waterway (aka

Burns Ditch). U.S. Steel reported this to the National Response Center (NRC #1175399). OSC Thomas contacted the reporting party regarding this incident, and was told the facility was conducting an investigation to determine what it was. OSC Thomas then contacted OSCs Beslow and Mendez, who were nearby, to investigate as well.

Upon arriving at the scene, OSCs Beslow and Mendez met with U.S. Steel's environmental manager and were told that the facility had determined the material was hexavalent chrome. This information was immediately shared with United States Coast Guard personnel, who were also responding.

State, Local, and other Federal Agency Action: The USCG, and IDEM have arrived on scene. EPA has notified local water intakes in Gary, East Chicago, and Ogden Dunes. Indiana American Water in Ogden Dunes has shut down their water intake and has approximately 4 hours of reserves.

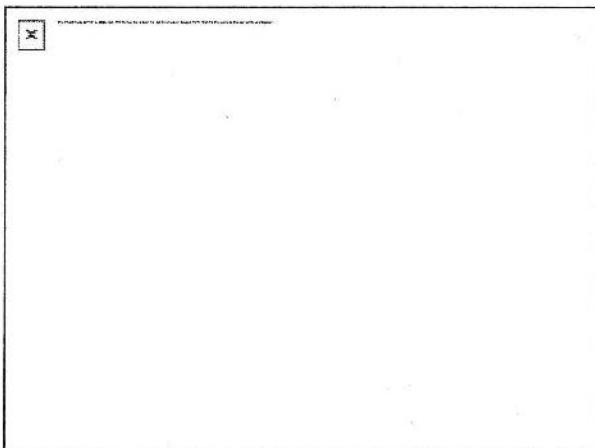
EPA has also notified U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Department of the Interior and the National Park Service.

EPA Actions: EPA OSC Andy Maguire and START are mobilizing to the scene to conduct water sampling. Investigations are under way to determine how the hexavalent chrome released, the amount of hexavalent chrome released and the extent of the release into the waterway.

The facility has minimized the amount of water it is using to essential systems only to reduce through put.

Media Interest: No media interest at this time.

EPA Region 5 OSC contact: Andy Maguire, 312-758-8672



Craig Thomas
US EPA Region 5 On-Scene Coordinator
Emergency Response Branch
77 W. Jackson Blvd., SE-5J
Chicago, IL 60604
312-886-5907 office
312-802-9637 cell



State of Illinois - CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE: The information contained in this communication is confidential, may be attorney-client privileged or attorney work product, may constitute inside information or internal deliberative staff communication, and is intended only for the use of the addressee. Unauthorized use, disclosure or copying of this communication or any part thereof is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful. If you have received this communication in error, please notify the sender immediately by return e-mail and destroy this communication and all copies thereof, including all attachments. Receipt by an unintended recipient does not waive attorney-client privilege, attorney work product privilege, or any other exemption from disclosure.

Poy, Thomas

From: Stark, Alan <Alan.Stark@cityofchicago.org>
Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2017 12:23 PM
To: Poy, Thomas; Ames, Mort; Murphy, Barrett; Hernandez-Tomlin, Julie; Litherland, Gary; Caminer, Irene; Putz, Andrea; dave McMillan; Wheat, Christopher; McMillan, Dave; Kelly, Mike; Schwer, Patrick; Skiadopoulos, Frank; O'Malley, Mark; Salinas, Eduardo; Litherland, Gary
Cc: Mary Hollingsworth; Korleski, Christopher; feighnerb@michigan.gov
Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

Thank you!

From: Poy, Thomas [mailto:poy.thomas@epa.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2017 12:10 PM
To: Stark, Alan; Ames, Mort; Murphy, Barrett; Hernandez-Tomlin, Julie; Litherland, Gary; Caminer, Irene; Putz, Andrea; dave McMillan; Wheat, Christopher; McMillan, Dave; Kelly, Mike; Schwer, Patrick; Skiadopoulos, Frank; O'Malley, Mark; Salinas, Eduardo; Litherland, Gary
Cc: Mary Hollingsworth; Korleski, Christopher; feighnerb@michigan.gov
Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

I believe the source of the active release has been stopped and it is just residual in the outfall now.

Tom

Tom Poy
Chief, Ground Water and Drinking Water Branch
USEPA - Region 5
(312) 886-5991

From: Stark, Alan [mailto:Alan.Stark@cityofchicago.org]
Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2017 10:37 AM
To: Poy, Thomas <poy.thomas@epa.gov>; Ames, Mort <Mort.Ames@cityofchicago.org>; Murphy, Barrett <Barrett.Murphy@cityofchicago.org>; Hernandez-Tomlin, Julie <Julie.HernandezTomlin@cityofchicago.org>; Litherland, Gary <Gary.Litherland@cityofchicago.org>; Caminer, Irene <Irene.Camner@cityofchicago.org>; Putz, Andrea <Andrea.Putz@cityofchicago.org>; dave McMillan <dave.mcmillan@illinois.gov>; Wheat, Christopher <Christopher.Wheat@cityofchicago.org>; McMillan, Dave <DAVE.MCMILLAN@Illinois.gov>; Kelly, Mike <Mike.Kelly@cityofchicago.org>; Schwer, Patrick <Patrick.Schwer@cityofchicago.org>; Skiadopoulos, Frank <Frank.Skiadopoulos@cityofchicago.org>; O'Malley, Mark <Mark.OMalley@cityofchicago.org>; Salinas, Eduardo <Eduardo.Salinas@cityofchicago.org>; Litherland, Gary <Gary.Litherland@cityofchicago.org>
Cc: Mary Hollingsworth <MHolling@idem.IN.gov>; Korleski, Christopher <korleski.christopher@epa.gov>; feighnerb@michigan.gov
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Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

Hi Alan: No update on quantity or concentration. The sampling from yesterday was indicating that the chromium had not reached Lake Michigan. More sampling is going to be done today.

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Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

Hi Tom,

Any updates, release quantity and concentration?

Lake currents still counter clockwise. Hourly samples from SWPP's 68th Street Crib complex in route to Eurofins in South Bend. Lake Survey underway, samples will be driven to Eurofins once they boat gets back. Results will be forwarded as I get them. Crib sampling now every two hours lab results will dictated further sampling and possible mitigation.

Thanks
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To: Ames, Mort; Murphy, Barrett; Hernandez-Tomlin, Julie; Litherland, Gary; Caminer, Irene; Putz, Andrea; Poy, Thomas; dave McMillan; Wheat, Christopher
Subject: Fwd: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

Tom
Thank you for the update.
We are collecting hourly at SWPP crib, driving samples to Euro fins this morning, results later afternoon. Lake survey in morning, drive samples in afternoon, results late night. I will forward results to you and Dave as I get them.

Thanks
Alan

----- Original message -----

From: "Poy, Thomas" <poy.thomas@epa.gov>

Date: 4/11/17 11:40 PM (GMT-06:00)

To: "Stark, Alan" <Alan.Stark@cityofchicago.org>, Dave McMillan <dave.mcmillan@illinois.gov>, Mary Hollingsworth <MHollings@idem.IN.gov>, feighnerb@michigan.gov

Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

The last that I heard, they were still investigating the cause and volume of the release.

A set of samples were collected before dark. Samples were taken upstream of the outfall, at the outfall, and downstream of the outfall. Two samples were also taken at the nearby Indiana American Water intake and wet well. A subset of samples, including the samples taken at the water intake, were sent to an on-site lab for rapid turnaround. The highest concentration of in the samples was detected at the outfall was 949 ppb. The samples taken at the American Water intake and wet well were non-detects for total chromium. The rest of the samples will be sent off to a lab in Valparaiso later tonight to be run for hexavalent chromium. Overnight, samples will be taken at the outfall every 2 hours and another full round of samples will be taken tomorrow morning

Tom Poy

Chief, Ground Water and Drinking Water Branch

USEPA - Region 5

(312) 886-5991

From: Stark, Alan [mailto:Alan.Stark@cityofchicago.org]

Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 8:02 PM

To: Poy, Thomas <poy.thomas@epa.gov>

Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

Any updates?

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

----- Original message -----

From: "Poy, Thomas" <poy.thomas@epa.gov>

Date: 4/11/17 2:53 PM (GMT-06:00)

To: "Stark, Alan" <Alan.Stark@cityofchicago.org>

Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

Alan: Thanks for the information. I'm sharing what you're doing with the OSCs at the site.

Tom

Tom Poy

Chief, Ground Water and Drinking Water Branch

USEPA - Region 5

(312) 886-5991

From: Stark, Alan [<mailto:Alan.Stark@cityofchicago.org>]
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To: McMillan, Dave <DAVE.MCMILLAN@Illinois.gov>; Poy, Thomas <poy.thomas@epa.gov>
Cc: Murphy, Barrett <Barrett.Murphy@cityofchicago.org>; Hernandez-Tomlin, Julie <Julie.HernandezTomlin@cityofchicago.org>; Putz, Andrea <Andrea.Putz@cityofchicago.org>; Kelly, Mike <Mike.Kelly@cityofchicago.org>; Schwer, Patrick <Patrick.Schwer@cityofchicago.org>; O'Malley, Mark <Mark.OMalley@cityofchicago.org>; Salinas, Eduardo <Eduardo.Salinas@cityofchicago.org>; Skiadopoulos, Frank <Frank.Skiadopoulos@cityofchicago.org>; Litherland, Gary <Gary.Litherland@cityofchicago.org>; Caminer, Irene <Irene.Caminer@cityofchicago.org>
Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

Dave and Tom

Per our discussion, NOAA currents showing counter clockwise current in Lake Michigan and winds out of the west. For precaution we will sample for Cr6+ at SWPP Crib hourly once we get the sample bottles from the lab. Tomorrow, out of an abundance of caution, we will do a grid sampling of Lake Michigan, quarter mile off shore near Gary Indiana for Cr6+. Any questions please call me anytime 312-617-4233.

Thanks
Alan

From: McMillan, Dave [<mailto:DAVE.MCMILLAN@Illinois.gov>]
Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 1:53 PM
To: Stark, Alan
Subject: FW: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

Additional information per our discussion.

From: Lauder, Roger
Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 1:50 PM
To: McMillan, Dave <DAVE.MCMILLAN@Illinois.gov>; Cook, David <DAVID.COOK@Illinois.gov>
Subject: FW: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

FYI

From: Borries, Samuel [<mailto:borries.samuel@epa.gov>]
Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 1:48 PM
To: Lauder, Roger
Cc: El-Zein, Jason
Subject: [External] FW: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

Roger,
Here is the ER notification report with the current information.

From: Thomas, Craig
Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 1:46 PM
To: R5 ER Notification List <R5_ER_Notification_List@epa.gov>
Cc: Maguire, Andrew <maguire.andrew@epa.gov>; Beslow, Mike <beslow.mike@epa.gov>; Lippert, Jeffrey <lippert.jeffrey@epa.gov>; Behnke, Kristina <behnke.kristina@epa.gov>; Mendez, Thomas <mendez.thomas@epa.gov>
Subject: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

ER Notification #1 (Initial) – U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release, Portage, IN

Region 5 ER Notification #1 (Initial): NRC# 1175399, U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release, Portage, IN

Report as of: 09/23/16 at 13:45 CDT

Overview: On 4/11/17 at approximately 09:30 central time, U.S Steel Corporation discovered a green discoloration in the water near an outfall at their facility in Portage, IN, discharging into Burns Waterway (aka Burns Ditch). U.S. Steel reported this to the National Response Center (NRC #1175399). OSC Thomas contacted the reporting party regarding this incident, and was told the facility was conducting an investigation to determine what it was. OSC Thomas then contacted OSCs Beslow and Mendez, who were nearby, to investigate as well.

Upon arriving at the scene, OSCs Beslow and Mendez met with U.S Steel's environmental manager and were told that the facility had determined the material was hexavalent chrome. This information was immediately shared with United States Coast Guard personnel, who were also responding.

State, Local, and other Federal Agency Action: The USCG, and IDEM have arrived on scene. EPA has notified local water intakes in Gary, East Chicago, and Ogden Dunes. Indiana American Water in Ogden Dunes has shut down their water intake and has approximately 4 hours of reserves.

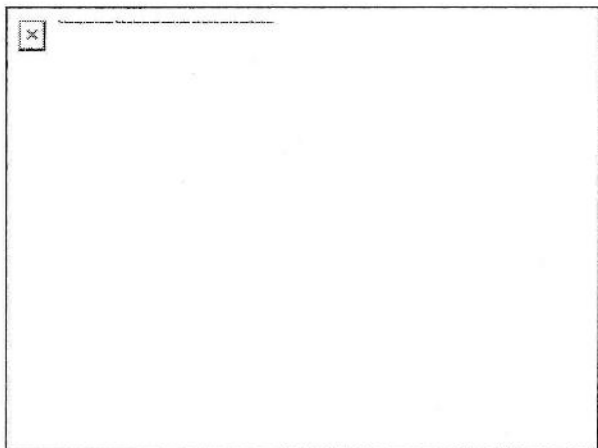
EPA has also notified U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Department of the Interior and the National Park Service.

EPA Actions: EPA OSC Andy Maguire and START are mobilizing to the scene to conduct water sampling. Investigations are under way to determine how the hexavalent chrome released, the amount of hexavalent chrome released and the extent of the release into the waterway.

The facility has minimized the amount of water it is using to essential systems only to reduce through put.

Media Interest: No media interest at this time.

EPA Region 5 OSC contact: Andy Maguire, 312-758-8672



Craig Thomas

Poy, Thomas

From: Stark, Alan <Alan.Stark@cityofchicago.org>
Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2017 6:05 PM
To: Poy, Thomas; Ames, Mort; Murphy, Barrett; Hernandez-Tomiin, Julie; Litherland, Gary; Caminer, Irene; Putz, Andrea; dave McMillan; Wheat, Christopher; McMillan, Dave; Kelly, Mike; Schwer, Patrick; Skiadopoulos, Frank; O'Malley, Mark; Salinas, Eduardo; Litherland, Gary; Saleh, Hassen; Bresnahan, William
Cc: Mary Hollingsworth; Korleski, Christopher; feighnerb@michigan.gov
Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN
Attachments: removed.txt; Routine Cr6+ Quarterly Results.pdf; Copy of 386402.xls; MP_CTR_JSM_Sample_Locations_USSteelSpill_20170412.pdf

See below highlighted, results from first ten samples (excel sheet) in agreement with our routine samples collected quarterly. Remaining results from Crib lake survey being delivered to Eurofins (as of this email) to follow. Also attached GIS plot of lake grid survey, results to follow. As stated earlier further sampling will be based on final results.

Thanks
Alan

From: Nathan Trowbridge [mailto:NathanTrowbridge@eurofinsUS.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2017 5:30 PM
To: Stark, Alan
Subject: RE: COC Sheets

Thanks Alan,

I've attached data for the 1st 10 samples that were analyzed. The next 4, plus the ones coming in tonight should be ready by tomorrow morning. The data looks fairly steady each hour and what I saw of the next 4 was similar. I'll let you know more as soon as I have data.

If you need anything else, please let me know. I'll be here until all of the new samples are on the instrument. I'll be at home checking email after that.

Thanks,

Nathan Trowbridge

Phone: +1 574 472 5528
Mobile: +1 574 302 2590
Email: NathanTrowbridge@EurofinsUS.com

From: Stark, Alan [mailto:Alan.Stark@cityofchicago.org]
Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2017 6:09 PM
To: Nathan Trowbridge
Subject: COC Sheets

See attached completed COC from the morning and one from the Lake Survey that is on the way to you

Alan

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Notify us [here](#) to report this email as spam.

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To: 'Poy, Thomas'; Ames, Mort; Murphy, Barrett; Hernandez-Tomlin, Julie; Litherland, Gary; Caminer, Irene; Putz, Andrea; dave McMillan; Wheat, Christopher; McMillan, Dave; Kelly, Mike; Schwer, Patrick; Skiadopoulos, Frank; O'Malley, Mark; Salinas, Eduardo; Litherland, Gary
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Thank you!

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I believe the source of the active release has been stopped and it is just residual in the outfall now.

Tom

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Cc: Mary Hollingsworth <MHolling@idem.IN.gov>; Korleski, Christopher <korleski.christopher@epa.gov>; feighnerb@michigan.gov
Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

Have they stopped the outfall?

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Any updates, release quantity and concentration?

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Alan: Thanks for the information. I'm sharing what you're doing with the OSCs at the site.

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Cc: Murphy, Barrett <Barrett.Murphy@cityofchicago.org>; Hernandez-Tomlin, Julie

<Julie.HernandezTomlin@cityofchicago.org>; Putz, Andrea <Andrea.Putz@cityofchicago.org>; Kelly, Mike

<Mike.Kelly@cityofchicago.org>; Schwer, Patrick <Patrick.Schwer@cityofchicago.org>; O'Malley, Mark

<Mark.OMalley@cityofchicago.org>; Salinas, Eduardo <Eduardo.Salinas@cityofchicago.org>; Skiadopoulos, Frank

<Frank.Skiadopoulos@cityofchicago.org>; Litherland, Gary <Gary.Litherland@cityofchicago.org>; Caminer, Irene

<Irene.Caminer@cityofchicago.org>

Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

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Additional information per our discussion.

From: Lauder, Roger

Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 1:50 PM

To: McMillan, Dave <DAVE.MCMILLAN@Illinois.gov>; Cook, David <DAVID.COOK@Illinois.gov>

Subject: FW: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

FYI

From: Borries, Samuel [mailto:borries.samuel@epa.gov]

Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 1:48 PM

To: Lauder, Roger

Cc: El-Zein, Jason

Subject: [External] FW: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

Roger,

Here is the ER notification report with the current information.

From: Thomas, Craig

Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 1:46 PM

To: R5 ER Notification List <R5_ER_Notification_List@epa.gov>

Cc: Maguire, Andrew <maguire.andrew@epa.gov>; Beslow, Mike <beslow.mike@epa.gov>; Lippert, Jeffrey <lippert.jeffrey@epa.gov>; Behnke, Kristina <behnke.kristina@epa.gov>; Mendez, Thomas <mendez.thomas@epa.gov>

Subject: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

ER Notification #1 (Initial) – U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release, Portage, IN

Region 5 ER Notification #1 (Initial): NRC# 1175399, U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release, Portage, IN

Report as of: 09/23/16 at 13:45 CDT

Overview: On 4/11/17 at approximately 09:30 central time, U.S Steel Corporation discovered a green discoloration in the water near an outfall at their facility in Portage, IN, discharging into Burns Waterway (aka Burns Ditch). U.S. Steel reported this to the National Response Center (NRC #1175399). OSC Thomas contacted the reporting party regarding this incident, and was told the facility was conducting an investigation to determine what it was. OSC Thomas then contacted OSCs Beslow and Mendez, who were nearby, to investigate as well.

Upon arriving at the scene, OSCs Beslow and Mendez met with U.S Steel's environmental manager and were told that the facility had determined the material was hexavalent chrome. This information was immediately shared with United States Coast Guard personnel, who were also responding.

State, Local, and other Federal Agency Action: The USCG, and IDEM have arrived on scene. EPA has notified local water intakes in Gary, East Chicago, and Ogden Dunes. Indiana American Water in Ogden Dunes has shut down their water intake and has approximately 4 hours of reserves.

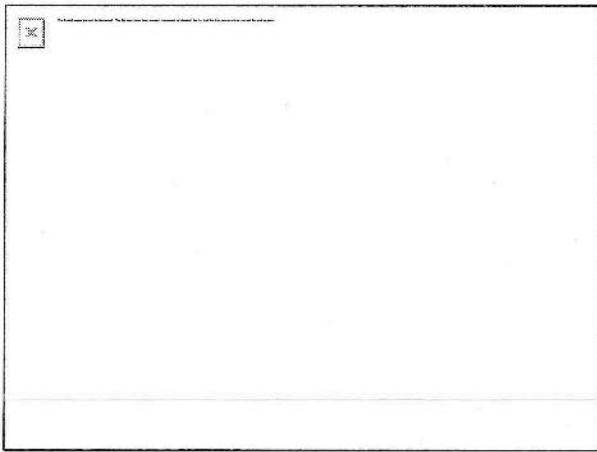
EPA has also notified U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Department of the Interior and the National Park Service.

EPA Actions: EPA OSC Andy Maguire and START are mobilizing to the scene to conduct water sampling. Investigations are under way to determine how the hexavalent chrome released, the amount of hexavalent chrome released and the extent of the release into the waterway.

The facility has minimized the amount of water it is using to essential systems only to reduce through put.

Media Interest: No media interest at this time.

EPA Region 5 OSC contact: Andy Maguire, 312-758-8672



Craig Thomas
US EPA Region 5 On-Scene Coordinator
Emergency Response Branch
77 W. Jackson Blvd., SE-5J
Chicago, IL 60604
312-886-5907 office
312-802-9637 cell



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Poy, Thomas

From: Mendez, Thomas
Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2017 7:05 PM
To: Borries, Samuel; El-Zein, Jason; Brown, Jaime; Ribordy, Michael; Mankowski, Matthew; Augustyn, James; Kelley, Jeff; Bassler, Rachel; Deamer, Eileen; dgreinke@idem.IN.gov
Cc: Eoc, Epahq; Behnke, Kristina; Beslow, Mike; Maguire, Andrew; Thomas, Craig; Lippert, Jeffrey; Cashmere, Jason; Goeks, Todd; Johnson, Mark; Karecki, Edward; Rowan, Anne; Reshkin, Karen; Maraldo, Dean; Donnelly, Peggy; Poy, Thomas
Subject: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release, Portage, IN
Attachments: IMG_3495.jpg

Update as of: 4/12/17 at 17:30 CST

Overview: Sampling continued for a second day on 4/12/17. Stakeholders convened for an end of day meeting to discuss the ongoing response at US Steel regarding the release of hexavalent chrome. Stakeholders present included USEPA, US Steel, IDEM, National Park Service and Indiana American Water, Portage Police and a representatives for the beaches of City of Portage.

EPA representatives were available to the press for a briefing at approximately 15:30 on 4/12/17 and answered inquiries regarding the response effort.

- Sampling data has been coming in from 4/11/17 sampling events.
 - Some residual chrome can still be seen in water sampling results
- Additional sampling points have been identified and is ongoing.
 - Some predetermined sampling points were not able to be sampled due to safety concerns on the water and the level of wave action. However corresponding shore sediment samples and wading level water samples were taken.
- US Steel has said based on their compliance composite samplers, they released 138.8 lbs of chrome on April 10th and 206.72 lbs of chrome on 11th.

EPA, State, Local, and other Federal Agency Action:

- Indiana American Water's intake is still currently shut down.
- Continued sampling of Burns Ditch and Lake Michigan will continue tomorrow 4/13/17
- National Park Service beaches are still currently closed.
 - Sediment sampling of the shoreline has started and will correspond with water samples north in Lake Michigan

NEWS Coverage:

<http://www.nbcchicago.com/news/local/Chemical-Spill-Forces-Closure-of-Indiana-Dunes-Beaches-419279844.html>

<http://www.fox32chicago.com/news/local/248120304-story>

<http://abc7chicago.com/news/us-steel-reports-chemical-spill-in-portage-canal/1862338/>

EPA Region 5 OSC contact: Andy Maguire, 312-758-8672

Thomas Mendez

Emergency Response Branch
On Scene Coordinator
U.S. EPA Region 5
77 W Jackson Blvd (SE-5J)
Chicago, Illinois 60604
312-353-8242

******Please note as of 01/06/2017: I will no longer be with the Water Division of EPA Region 5 and have taken a position with EPA Region 5 Superfund. For all water related questions please contact my previous supervisor vantil.barbara@epa.gov ******

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Poy, Thomas

From: Poy, Thomas
Sent: Thursday, April 13, 2017 8:45 AM
To: Mendez, Thomas
Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release, Portage, IN

Tom: Do you know how US Steel came up with pounds of chrome? Concentration x Volume of water, I assume (?) Plus, is the mass total chromium or hexavalent chromium?

Tom

Tom Poy
Chief, Ground Water and Drinking Water Branch
USEPA - Region 5
(312) 886-5991

From: Mendez, Thomas
Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2017 7:05 PM
To: Borries, Samuel <borries.samuel@epa.gov>; El-Zein, Jason <el-zein.jason@epa.gov>; Brown, Jaime <brown.jaime@epa.gov>; Ribordy, Michael <ribordy.mike@epa.gov>; Mankowski, Matthew <mankowski.matthew@epa.gov>; Augustyn, James <augustyn.james@epa.gov>; Kelley, Jeff <kelley.jeff@epa.gov>; Bassler, Rachel <Bassler.Rachel@epa.gov>; Deamer, Eileen <deamer.eileen@epa.gov>; dgreinke@idem.IN.gov
Cc: Eoc, Epahq <Eoc.Epahq@epa.gov>; Behnke, Kristina <behnke.kristina@epa.gov>; Beslow, Mike <beslow.mike@epa.gov>; Maguire, Andrew <maguire.andrew@epa.gov>; Thomas, Craig <thomas.craig@epa.gov>; Lippert, Jeffrey <lippert.jeffrey@epa.gov>; Cashmere, Jason <cashmere.jason@epa.gov>; Goeks, Todd <goeks.todd@epa.gov>; Johnson, Mark <johnson.mark@epa.gov>; Karecki, Edward <karecki.edward@epa.gov>; Rowan, Anne <rowan.anne@epa.gov>; Reshkin, Karen <Reshkin.Karen@epa.gov>; Maraldo, Dean <Maraldo.Dean@epa.gov>; Donnelly, Peggy <Donnelly.Peggy@epa.gov>; Poy, Thomas <poy.thomas@epa.gov>
Subject: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release, Portage, IN

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Overview: Sampling continued for a second day on 4/12/17. Stakeholders convened for an end of day meeting to discuss the ongoing response at US Steel regarding the release of hexavalent chrome. Stakeholders present included USEPA, US Steel, IDEM, National Park Service and Indiana American Water, Portage Police and a representatives for the beaches of City of Portage.

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EPA Region 5 OSC contact: Andy Maguire, 312-758-8672

Thomas Mendez

Emergency Response Branch

On Scene Coordinator

U.S. EPA Region 5

77 W Jackson Blvd (SE-5J)

Chicago, Illinois 60604

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****Please note as of 01/06/2017: I will no longer be with the Water Division of EPA Region 5 and have taken a position with EPA Region 5 Superfund. For all water related questions please contact my previous supervisor vantil.barbara@epa.gov ****

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Poy, Thomas

From: Poy, Thomas
Sent: Thursday, April 13, 2017 8:53 AM
To: Mary Hollingsworth
Subject: US Steel

Mary: Has any of the NW Indiana systems done monitoring for hexavalent chromium due to the US Steel release other than Indiana American Water at Ogden Dunes? Any results? I understand that the initial Ogden Dunes sampling were non-detect.

Tom

Tom Poy
Chief, Ground Water and Drinking Water Branch
USEPA - Region 5
(312) 886-5991

Poy, Thomas

From: Brown, Alicia
Sent: Thursday, April 13, 2017 9:00 AM
To: Pickard, Brian; Opie, Jodie
Cc: Tingley, Kevin; Poy, Thomas
Subject: RE: EOC Spot Report: Region 5, U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chromium Release, Portage, IN (NRC# 1175399) – Update #2

Hi Brian,

Not at this moment, the water teams are not involved. If, it changes, we will let you know.

Alicia

From: Pickard, Brian
Sent: Thursday, April 13, 2017 8:38 AM
To: Opie, Jodie <opie.jodie@epa.gov>; Brown, Alicia <brown.alicia@epa.gov>
Cc: Pickard, Brian <Pickard.Brian@epa.gov>; Tingley, Kevin <Tingley.Kevin@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: EOC Spot Report: Region 5, U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chromium Release, Portage, IN (NRC# 1175399) – Update #2

Hi Jodie and Alicia,

I'm filling in for Kevin this week while he's on leave and wanted to check in to see if you or Region 5 Water Teams have had any involvement with this Hex Chrome release. We're getting some interest from HQ management on it.

Thanks,

-Brian

Brian C. Pickard, P.E., BCEE, MBA
Team Leader, Security Assistance Branch
EPA OW-OGWDW-Water Security Division
Ph [202.564.0827](tel:202.564.0827)/pickard.brian@epa.gov

From: Workman, Rosemary
Sent: Thursday, April 13, 2017 9:27 AM
To: Pickard, Brian <Pickard.Brian@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: EOC Spot Report: Region 5, U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chromium Release, Portage, IN (NRC# 1175399) – Update #2

See the note about the water treatment plant....can you all investigate with our regional partners and see if the water team is involved?

It is too bad that the contamination one pager isn't ready yet.

From: Eoc, Epahq
Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2017 6:23 PM
To: Eoc, Epahq <Eoc.Epahq@epa.gov>
Subject: EOC Spot Report: Region 5, U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chromium Release, Portage, IN (NRC# 1175399) – Update #2

Poy, Thomas

From: Hollingsworth, Mary <MHolling@idem.IN.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 13, 2017 9:04 AM
To: Poy, Thomas
Subject: RE: US Steel

Not that I'm aware of, but I can check

Mary E. Hollingsworth
Drinking Water Branch Chief
Office of Water Quality
Indiana Department of Environmental Management
IGCN 1201
100 North Senate Avenue
Indianapolis, IN 46204-2251
317-232-8741

From: Poy, Thomas [mailto:poy.thomas@epa.gov]
Sent: Thursday, April 13, 2017 9:53 AM
To: Hollingsworth, Mary
Subject: US Steel

**** This is an EXTERNAL email. Exercise caution. DO NOT open attachments or click links from unknown senders or unexpected email. ****

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Tom Poy
Chief, Ground Water and Drinking Water Branch
USEPA - Region 5
(312) 886-5991

Poy, Thomas

From: Pickard, Brian
Sent: Thursday, April 13, 2017 9:05 AM
To: Brown, Alicia; Opie, Jodie
Cc: Tingley, Kevin; Poy, Thomas; Pickard, Brian
Subject: RE: EOC Spot Report: Region 5, U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chromium Release, Portage, IN (NRC# 1175399) – Update #2

Got it, Alicia – thanks for getting back to me and appreciate you keeping me in the loop if anything changes.

-Brian

From: Brown, Alicia
Sent: Thursday, April 13, 2017 10:00 AM
To: Pickard, Brian <Pickard.Brian@epa.gov>; Opie, Jodie <opie.jodie@epa.gov>
Cc: Tingley, Kevin <Tingley.Kevin@epa.gov>; Poy, Thomas <poy.thomas@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: EOC Spot Report: Region 5, U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chromium Release, Portage, IN (NRC# 1175399) – Update #2

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Cc: Pickard, Brian <Pickard.Brian@epa.gov>; Tingley, Kevin <Tingley.Kevin@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: EOC Spot Report: Region 5, U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chromium Release, Portage, IN (NRC# 1175399) – Update #2

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Brian C. Pickard, P.E., BCEE, MBA
Team Leader, Security Assistance Branch
EPA OW-OGWDW-Water Security Division
Ph [202.564.0827](tel:202.564.0827)/pickard.brian@epa.gov

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Sent: Thursday, April 13, 2017 9:27 AM
To: Pickard, Brian <Pickard.Brian@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: EOC Spot Report: Region 5, U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chromium Release, Portage, IN (NRC# 1175399) – Update #2

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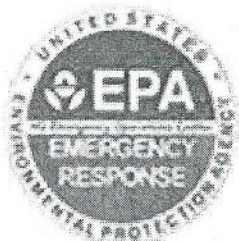
Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2017 6:23 PM

To: Eoc, Epahq <Eoc.Epahq@epa.gov>

Subject: EOC Spot Report: Region 5, U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chromium Release, Portage, IN (NRC# 1175399) – Update #2

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EOC Spot Report: Region 5, U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chromium Release, Portage, IN (NRC# 1175399) – Update #2

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Report as of April 12, 2017 at 1815 ET

Overview: On April 11 at approximately 09:30 CT, U.S. Steel Corporation discovered a green discoloration in the water near an outfall at their facility and discharging into Burns Waterway (or Burns Ditch) in Portage, Indiana. EPA arrived at the scene and met with U.S. Steel's environmental manager and were told that the facility had determined that the released material was hexavalent chromium. U.S. Steel alleges that the source of the active release has now been stopped. It appears that hexavalent chromium waste reached the regular treatment plant on site, rather than the chromium treatment plant. Indiana American Water in Ogden Dunes, the nearest municipal water source, shut down their intake on April 11 and has switched to a reserve water supply.

State, Local and other Federal Agency Actions: The U.S. Coast Guard (USCG), Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM), National Park Service and Indiana American Water were on scene. EPA also notified local water intakes in Gary, East Chicago, and Ogden Dunes. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has provided an ecological risk number and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) has provided a human health risk number. Out of precaution, the National Park Service has closed four beaches (east and west of Burns Waterway) and a Riverwalk at the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore. The beaches and Riverwalk remain closed today (April 12).

EPA Actions: Three EPA Region 5 OSCs are on site along with START contractors. A set of water samples were taken by EPA and START on April 11 upstream of the outfall, at the outfall, and downstream of the outfall. Two samples were also taken at the nearby Indiana American Water intake and wet well. EPA and START continued a second day of intensive water sampling efforts on April 12. Outfall results still show detectable hexavalent chromium in the Burns Waterway with overnight levels as high as 2,231 ug/L. Water

intake results initially showed hexavalent chromium levels slightly above the detection limit, but confirmation sampling later showed it was at the or below the detection limit and well below EPA's health-based standard for drinking water. EPA and the National Park Service have identified additional locations for water and sediment sampling along the lakeshore (east and west of Burns Waterway).

Media Interest: High in the local area

<http://www.wndu.com/content/news/Chemical-spill-closes-2-beach-areas-at-Indiana-Dunes-National-Lakeshore-419264724.html>

<http://fox59.com/2017/04/12/us-steel-spill-closes-2-indiana-beaches-on-lake-michigan/>

<http://abc7chicago.com/news/us-steel-reports-chemical-spill-in-portage-canal/1862338/>

http://www.nwitimes.com/news/local/porter/update-cpa-chemical-spill-originated-at-u-s-steel-residents/article_b3e7bb00-6b6c-56b4-80d7-783c986bed4e.html

Note: The HQ EOC will continue to monitor and provide updates as needed

Steve Ridenour, Senior Watch Officer
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Headquarters Emergency Operations Center
1200 Pennsylvania Ave. N.W.
Washington, DC 20004
202-564-3850
<mailto:eoc.epahq@epa.gov>

Poy, Thomas

From: Poy, Thomas
Sent: Thursday, April 13, 2017 10:44 AM
To: Borries, Samuel
Cc: Korleski, Christopher; Timothy Henry - EPA
Subject: FW: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN
Attachments: removed.txt; Routine Cr6+ Quarterly Results.pdf; Copy of 386402.xls; MP_CTR_JSM_Sample_Locations_USSteelSpill_20170412.pdf

Sam: The first attachment are Chicago's quarterly monitoring for Cr+6 which shows that they normally detect it at the Southside crib at around 0.15 ug/L.

The second attachment is an Excel spreadsheet of their Southside crib monitoring from yesterday which shows concentrations in the normal range.

The last attachment is a map showing the locations of the sampling points of their boat. The horizontal distance between points in the grid area is 1 mile, vertical distance is 0.5 mile.

Alan will be sending me the sample results today but he told me that the concentration of Cr+6 at location 1G (sampled from the ship's sampling port) = 1.6 ug/L; 1GD (a dip sample) = 2.0 ug/L.

The results for 12G = 0.16 ug/L and 12GD = 0.16ug/L.

I'll send you the grid sampling results when I get them.

Tom

Tom Poy
Chief, Ground Water and Drinking Water Branch
USEPA - Region 5
(312) 886-5991

From: Stark, Alan [mailto:Alan.Stark@cityofchicago.org]
Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2017 6:05 PM
To: Poy, Thomas <poy.thomas@epa.gov>; Ames, Mort <Mort.Ames@cityofchicago.org>; Murphy, Barrett <Barrett.Murphy@cityofchicago.org>; Hernandez-Tomlin, Julie <Julie.HernandezTomlin@cityofchicago.org>; Litherland, Gary <Gary.Litherland@cityofchicago.org>; Caminer, Irene <Irene.Caminer@cityofchicago.org>; Putz, Andrea <Andrea.Putz@cityofchicago.org>; dave McMillan <dave.mcmillan@illinois.gov>; Wheat, Christopher <Christopher.Wheat@cityofchicago.org>; McMillan, Dave <DAVE.MCMILLAN@Illinois.gov>; Kelly, Mike <Mike.Kelly@cityofchicago.org>; Schwer, Patrick <Patrick.Schwer@cityofchicago.org>; Skiadopoulos, Frank <Frank.Skiadopoulos@cityofchicago.org>; O'Malley, Mark <Mark.OMalley@cityofchicago.org>; Salinas, Eduardo <Eduardo.Salinas@cityofchicago.org>; Litherland, Gary <Gary.Litherland@cityofchicago.org>; Saleh, Hassen <Hassen.Saleh@cityofchicago.org>; Bresnahan, William <William.Bresnahan@cityofchicago.org>
Cc: Mary Hollingsworth <MHolling@idem.IN.gov>; Korleski, Christopher <korleski.christopher@epa.gov>; feighnerb@michigan.gov
Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

See below highlighted, results from first ten samples (excel sheet) in agreement with our routine samples collected quarterly. Remaining results from Crib lake survey being delivered to Eurofins (as of this email) to follow. Also attached GIS plot of lake grid survey, results to follow. As stated earlier further sampling will be based on final results.

Thanks
Alan

From: Nathan Trowbridge [<mailto:NathanTrowbridge@eurofinsUS.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2017 5:30 PM
To: Stark, Alan
Subject: RE: COC Sheets

Thanks Alan,

I've attached data for the 1st 10 samples that were analyzed. The next 4, plus the ones coming in tonight should be ready by tomorrow morning. The data looks fairly steady each hour and what I saw of the next 4 was similar. I'll let you know more as soon as I have data.

If you need anything else, please let me know. I'll be here until all of the new samples are on the instrument. I'll be at home checking email after that.

Thanks,

Nathan Trowbridge

Phone: +1 574 472 5528
Mobile: +1 574 302 2590
Email: NathanTrowbridge@EurofinsUS.com

From: Stark, Alan [<mailto:Alan.Stark@cityofchicago.org>]
Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2017 6:09 PM
To: Nathan Trowbridge
Subject: COC Sheets

See attached completed COC from the morning and one from the Lake Survey that is on the way to you

Alan

This e-mail, and any attachments thereto, is intended only for use by the addressee(s) named herein and may contain legally privileged and/or confidential information. If you are not the intended recipient of this e-mail (or the person responsible for delivering this document to the intended recipient), you are hereby notified that any dissemination, distribution, printing or copying of this e-mail, and any attachment thereto, is strictly prohibited. If you have received this e-mail in error, please respond to the individual sending the message, and permanently delete the original and any copy of any e-mail and printout thereof.

Notify us [here](#) to report this email as spam.

From: Stark, Alan
Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2017 12:23 PM
To: 'Poy, Thomas'; Ames, Mort; Murphy, Barrett; Hernandez-Tomlin, Julie; Litherland, Gary; Caminer, Irene; Putz, Andrea; dave McMillan; Wheat, Christopher; McMillan, Dave; Kelly, Mike; Schwer, Patrick; Skiadopoulos, Frank; O'Malley, Mark; Salinas, Eduardo; Litherland, Gary

Cc: Mary Hollingsworth; Korleski, Christopher; feighnerb@michigan.gov
Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

Thank you!

From: Poy, Thomas [<mailto:poy.thomas@epa.gov>]
Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2017 12:10 PM
To: Stark, Alan; Ames, Mort; Murphy, Barrett; Hernandez-Tomlin, Julie; Litherland, Gary; Caminer, Irene; Putz, Andrea; dave McMillan; Wheat, Christopher; McMillan, Dave; Kelly, Mike; Schwer, Patrick; Skiadopoulos, Frank; O'Malley, Mark; Salinas, Eduardo; Litherland, Gary
Cc: Mary Hollingsworth; Korleski, Christopher; feighnerb@michigan.gov
Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

I believe the source of the active release has been stopped and it is just residual in the outfall now.

Tom

Tom Poy
Chief, Ground Water and Drinking Water Branch
USEPA - Region 5
(312) 886-5991

From: Stark, Alan [<mailto:Alan.Stark@cityofchicago.org>]
Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2017 10:37 AM
To: Poy, Thomas <poy.thomas@epa.gov>; Ames, Mort <Mort.Ames@cityofchicago.org>; Murphy, Barrett <Barrett.Murphy@cityofchicago.org>; Hernandez-Tomlin, Julie <Julie.HernandezTomlin@cityofchicago.org>; Litherland, Gary <Gary.Litherland@cityofchicago.org>; Caminer, Irene <Irene.Caminer@cityofchicago.org>; Putz, Andrea <Andrea.Putz@cityofchicago.org>; dave McMillan <dave.mcmillan@illinois.gov>; Wheat, Christopher <Christopher.Wheat@cityofchicago.org>; McMillan, Dave <DAVE.MCMILLAN@illinois.gov>; Kelly, Mike <Mike.Kelly@cityofchicago.org>; Schwer, Patrick <Patrick.Schwer@cityofchicago.org>; Skiadopoulos, Frank <Frank.Skiadopoulos@cityofchicago.org>; O'Malley, Mark <Mark.OMalley@cityofchicago.org>; Salinas, Eduardo <Eduardo.Salinas@cityofchicago.org>; Litherland, Gary <Gary.Litherland@cityofchicago.org>
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Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

Have they stopped the outfall?

From: Poy, Thomas [<mailto:poy.thomas@epa.gov>]
Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2017 10:35 AM
To: Stark, Alan; Ames, Mort; Murphy, Barrett; Hernandez-Tomlin, Julie; Litherland, Gary; Caminer, Irene; Putz, Andrea; dave McMillan; Wheat, Christopher; McMillan, Dave; Kelly, Mike; Schwer, Patrick; Skiadopoulos, Frank; O'Malley, Mark; Salinas, Eduardo; Litherland, Gary
Cc: Mary Hollingsworth; Korleski, Christopher; feighnerb@michigan.gov
Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

Hi Alan: No update on quantity or concentration. The sampling from yesterday was indicating that the chromium had not reached Lake Michigan. More sampling is going to be done today.

Tom

Tom Poy
Chief, Ground Water and Drinking Water Branch
USEPA - Region 5
(312) 886-5991

From: Stark, Alan [mailto:Alan.Stark@cityofchicago.org]

Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2017 10:08 AM

To: Ames, Mort <Mort.Ames@cityofchicago.org>; Murphy, Barrett <Barrett.Murphy@cityofchicago.org>; Hernandez-Tomlin, Julie <Julie.HernandezTomlin@cityofchicago.org>; Litherland, Gary <Gary.Litherland@cityofchicago.org>; Caminer, Irene <Irene.Caminer@cityofchicago.org>; Putz, Andrea <Andrea.Putz@cityofchicago.org>; Poy, Thomas <poy.thomas@epa.gov>; dave McMillan <dave.mcmillan@illinois.gov>; Wheat, Christopher <Christopher.Wheat@cityofchicago.org>; McMillan, Dave <DAVE.MCMILLAN@Illinois.gov>; Kelly, Mike <Mike.Kelly@cityofchicago.org>; Schwer, Patrick <Patrick.Schwer@cityofchicago.org>; Skiadopoulos, Frank <Frank.Skiadopoulos@cityofchicago.org>; O'Malley, Mark <Mark.OMalley@cityofchicago.org>; Salinas, Eduardo <Eduardo.Salinas@cityofchicago.org>; Litherland, Gary <Gary.Litherland@cityofchicago.org>

Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

Hi Tom,

Any updates, release quantity and concentration?

Lake currents still counter clockwise. Hourly samples from SWPP's 68th Street Crib complex in route to Eurofins in South Bend. Lake Survey underway, samples will be driven to Eurofins once they boat gets back. Results will be forwarded as I get them. Crib sampling now every two hours lab results will dictated further sampling and possible mitigation.

Thanks
Alan

From: Stark, Alan

Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2017 1:44 AM

To: Ames, Mort; Murphy, Barrett; Hernandez-Tomlin, Julie; Litherland, Gary; Caminer, Irene; Putz, Andrea; Poy, Thomas; dave McMillan; Wheat, Christopher

Subject: Fwd: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

Tom
Thank you for the update.
We are collecting hourly at SWPP crib, driving samples to Euro fins this morning, results later afternoon. Lake survey in morning, drive samples in afternoon, results late night. I will forward results to you and Dave as I get them.

Thanks
Alan

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

----- Original message -----

From: "Poy, Thomas" <poy.thomas@epa.gov>

Date: 4/11/17 11:40 PM (GMT-06:00)

To: "Stark, Alan" <Alan.Stark@cityofchicago.org>, Dave McMillan <dave.mcmillan@illinois.gov>, Mary Hollingsworth <MHolling@idem.IN.gov>, feighnerb@michigan.gov
Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

The last that I heard, they were still investigating the cause and volume of the release. A set of samples were collected before dark. Samples were taken upstream of the outfall, at the outfall, and downstream of the outfall. Two samples were also taken at the nearby Indiana American Water intake and wet well. A subset of samples, including the samples taken at the water intake, were sent to an on-site lab for rapid turnaround. The highest concentration of in the samples was detected at the outfall was 949 ppb. The samples taken at the American Water intake and wet well were non-detects for total chromium. The rest of the samples will be sent off to a lab in Valparaiso later tonight to be run for hexavalent chromium. Overnight, samples will be taken at the outfall every 2 hours and another full round of samples will be taken tomorrow morning

Tom Poy
Chief, Ground Water and Drinking Water Branch
USEPA - Region 5
(312) 886-5991

From: Stark, Alan [<mailto:Alan.Stark@cityofchicago.org>]
Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 8:02 PM
To: Poy, Thomas <poy.thomas@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

Any updates?

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

----- Original message -----

From: "Poy, Thomas" <poy.thomas@epa.gov>
Date: 4/11/17 2:53 PM (GMT-06:00)
To: "Stark, Alan" <Alan.Stark@cityofchicago.org>
Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

Alan: Thanks for the information. I'm sharing what you're doing with the OSCs at the site.

Tom

Tom Poy
Chief, Ground Water and Drinking Water Branch
USEPA - Region 5
(312) 886-5991

From: Stark, Alan [<mailto:Alan.Stark@cityofchicago.org>]
Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 2:19 PM
To: McMillan, Dave <DAVE.MCMILLAN@Illinois.gov>; Poy, Thomas <poy.thomas@epa.gov>
Cc: Murphy, Barrett <Barrett.Murphy@cityofchicago.org>; Hernandez-Tomlin, Julie

<Julie.HernandezTomlin@cityofchicago.org>; Putz, Andrea <Andrea.Putz@cityofchicago.org>; Kelly, Mike <Mike.Kelly@cityofchicago.org>; Schwer, Patrick <Patrick.Schwer@cityofchicago.org>; O'Malley, Mark <Mark.O'Malley@cityofchicago.org>; Salinas, Eduardo <Eduardo.Salinas@cityofchicago.org>; Skiadopoulos, Frank <Frank.Skiadopoulos@cityofchicago.org>; Litherland, Gary <Gary.Litherland@cityofchicago.org>; Caminer, Irene <Irene.Caminer@cityofchicago.org>

Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

Dave and Tom

Per our discussion, NOAA currents showing counter clockwise current in Lake Michigan and winds out of the west. For precaution we will sample for Cr6+ at SWPP Crib hourly once we get the sample bottles from the lab. Tomorrow, out of an abundance of caution, we will do a grid sampling of Lake Michigan, quarter mile off shore near Gary Indiana for Cr6+. Any questions please call me anytime 312-617-4233.

Thanks
Alan

From: McMillan, Dave [mailto:DAVE.MCMILLAN@Illinois.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 1:53 PM
To: Stark, Alan
Subject: FW: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

Additional information per our discussion.

From: Lauder, Roger
Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 1:50 PM
To: McMillan, Dave <DAVE.MCMILLAN@Illinois.gov>; Cook, David <DAVID.COOK@Illinois.gov>
Subject: FW: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

FYI

From: Borries, Samuel [mailto:borries.samuel@epa.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 1:48 PM
To: Lauder, Roger
Cc: El-Zein, Jason
Subject: [External] FW: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

Roger,
Here is the ER notification report with the current information.

From: Thomas, Craig
Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 1:46 PM
To: R5 ER Notification List <R5_ER_Notification_List@epa.gov>
Cc: Maguire, Andrew <maguire.andrew@epa.gov>; Beslow, Mike <beslow.mike@epa.gov>; Lippert, Jeffrey <lippert.jeffrey@epa.gov>; Behnke, Kristina <behnke.kristina@epa.gov>; Mendez, Thomas <mendez.thomas@epa.gov>
Subject: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

ER Notification #1 (Initial) – U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release, Portage, IN

Region 5 ER Notification #1 (Initial): NRC# 1175399, U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release, Portage, IN

Report as of: 09/23/16 at 13:45 CDT

Overview: On 4/11/17 at approximately 09:30 central time, U.S Steel Corporation discovered a green discoloration in the water near an outfall at their facility in Portage, IN, discharging into Burns Waterway (aka Burns Ditch). U.S. Steel reported this to the National Response Center (NRC #1175399). OSC Thomas contacted the reporting party regarding this incident, and was told the facility was conducting an investigation to determine what it was. OSC Thomas then contacted OSCs Beslow and Mendez, who were nearby, to investigate as well.

Upon arriving at the scene, OSCs Beslow and Mendez met with U.S Steel's environmental manager and were told that the facility had determined the material was hexavalent chrome. This information was immediately shared with United States Coast Guard personnel, who were also responding.

State, Local, and other Federal Agency Action: The USCG, and IDEM have arrived on scene. EPA has notified local water intakes in Gary, East Chicago, and Ogden Dunes. Indiana American Water in Ogden Dunes has shut down their water intake and has approximately 4 hours of reserves.

EPA has also notified U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Department of the Interior and the National Park Service.

EPA Actions: EPA OSC Andy Maguire and START are mobilizing to the scene to conduct water sampling. Investigations are under way to determine how the hexavalent chrome released, the amount of hexavalent chrome released and the extent of the release into the waterway.

The facility has minimized the amount of water it is using to essential systems only to reduce through put.

Media Interest: No media interest at this time.

EPA Region 5 OSC contact: Andy Maguire, 312-758-8672



Craig Thomas
US EPA Region 5 On-Scene Coordinator
Emergency Response Branch
77 W. Jackson Blvd., SE-5J
Chicago, IL 60604
312-886-5907 office

312-802-9637 cell



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Poy, Thomas

From: Borries, Samuel
Sent: Thursday, April 13, 2017 10:55 AM
To: Poy, Thomas
Subject: Re: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

Thx

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 13, 2017, at 10:44 AM, Poy, Thomas <poy.thomas@epa.gov> wrote:

Sam: The first attachment are Chicago's quarterly monitoring for Cr+6 which shows that they normally detect it at the Southside crib at around 0.15 ug/L.
The second attachment is an Excel spreadsheet of their Southside crib monitoring from yesterday which shows concentrations in the normal range.
The last attachment is a map showing the locations of the sampling points of their boat. The horizontal distance between points in the grid area is 1 mile, vertical distance is 0.5 mile.

Alan will be sending me the sample results today but he told me that the concentration of Cr+6 at location 1G (sampled from the ship's sampling port) = 1.6 ug/L; 1GD (a dip sample) = 2.0 ug/L.
The results for 12G = 0.16 ug/L and 12GD = 0.16ug/L.

I'll send you the grid sampling results when I get them.

Tom

Tom Poy
Chief, Ground Water and Drinking Water Branch
USEPA - Region 5
(312) 886-5991

From: Stark, Alan [<mailto:Alan.Stark@cityofchicago.org>]
Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2017 6:05 PM
To: Poy, Thomas <poy.thomas@epa.gov>; Ames, Mort <Mort.Ames@cityofchicago.org>; Murphy, Barrett <Barrett.Murphy@cityofchicago.org>; Hernandez-Tomlin, Julie <Julie.HernandezTomlin@cityofchicago.org>; Litherland, Gary <Gary.Litherland@cityofchicago.org>; Caminer, Irene <Irene.Caminer@cityofchicago.org>; Putz, Andrea <Andrea.Putz@cityofchicago.org>; dave McMillan <dave.mcmillan@illinois.gov>; Wheat, Christopher <Christopher.Wheat@cityofchicago.org>; McMillan, Dave <DAVE.MCMILLAN@Illinois.gov>; Kelly, Mike <Mike.Kelly@cityofchicago.org>; Schwer, Patrick <Patrick.Schwer@cityofchicago.org>; Skiadopoulos, Frank <Frank.Skiadopoulos@cityofchicago.org>; O'Malley, Mark <Mark.OMalley@cityofchicago.org>; Salinas, Eduardo <Eduardo.Salinas@cityofchicago.org>; Litherland, Gary <Gary.Litherland@cityofchicago.org>; Saleh, Hassen <Hassen.Saleh@cityofchicago.org>; Bresnahan, William <William.Bresnahan@cityofchicago.org>
Cc: Mary Hollingsworth <MHolling@idem.IN.gov>; Korleski, Christopher <korleski.christopher@epa.gov>; feighnerb@michigan.gov
Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

See below highlighted, results from first ten samples (excel sheet) in agreement with our routine samples collected quarterly. Remaining results from Crib lake survey being delivered to Eurofins (as of this email) to follow. Also attached GIS plot of lake grid survey, results to follow. As stated earlier further sampling will be based on final results.

Thanks
Alan

From: Nathan Trowbridge [<mailto:NathanTrowbridge@eurofinsUS.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2017 5:30 PM
To: Stark, Alan
Subject: RE: COC Sheets

Thanks Alan,

I've attached data for the 1st 10 samples that were analyzed. The next 4, plus the ones coming in tonight should be ready by tomorrow morning. The data looks fairly steady each hour and what I saw of the next 4 was similar. I'll let you know more as soon as I have data.

If you need anything else, please let me know. I'll be here until all of the new samples are on the instrument. I'll be at home checking email after that.

Thanks,

Nathan Trowbridge

Phone: +1 574 472 5528
Mobile: +1 574 302 2590
Email: NathanTrowbridge@EurofinsUS.com

From: Stark, Alan [<mailto:Alan.Stark@cityofchicago.org>]
Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2017 6:09 PM
To: Nathan Trowbridge
Subject: COC Sheets

See attached completed COC from the morning and one from the Lake Survey that is on the way to you

Alan

This e-mail, and any attachments thereto, is intended only for use by the addressee(s) named herein and may contain legally privileged and/or confidential information. If you are not the intended recipient of this e-mail (or the person responsible for delivering this document to the intended recipient), you are hereby notified that any dissemination, distribution, printing or copying of this e-mail, and any attachment thereto, is strictly prohibited. If you have received this e-mail in error, please respond to the individual sending the message, and permanently delete the original and any copy of any e-mail and printout thereof.

Notify us [here](#) to report this email as spam.

From: Stark, Alan

Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2017 12:23 PM

To: 'Poy, Thomas'; Ames, Mort; Murphy, Barrett; Hernandez-Tomlin, Julie; Litherland, Gary; Caminer, Irene; Putz, Andrea; dave McMillan; Wheat, Christopher; McMillan, Dave; Kelly, Mike; Schwer, Patrick; Skiadopoulos, Frank; O'Malley, Mark; Salinas, Eduardo; Litherland, Gary

Cc: Mary Hollingsworth; Korleski, Christopher; feighnerb@michigan.gov

Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

Thank you!

From: Poy, Thomas [<mailto:poy.thomas@epa.gov>]

Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2017 12:10 PM

To: Stark, Alan; Ames, Mort; Murphy, Barrett; Hernandez-Tomlin, Julie; Litherland, Gary; Caminer, Irene; Putz, Andrea; dave McMillan; Wheat, Christopher; McMillan, Dave; Kelly, Mike; Schwer, Patrick; Skiadopoulos, Frank; O'Malley, Mark; Salinas, Eduardo; Litherland, Gary

Cc: Mary Hollingsworth; Korleski, Christopher; feighnerb@michigan.gov

Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

I believe the source of the active release has been stopped and it is just residual in the outfall now.

Tom

Tom Poy

Chief, Ground Water and Drinking Water Branch

USEPA - Region 5

(312) 886-5991

From: Stark, Alan [<mailto:Alan.Stark@cityofchicago.org>]

Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2017 10:37 AM

To: Poy, Thomas <poy.thomas@epa.gov>; Ames, Mort <Mort.Ames@cityofchicago.org>; Murphy, Barrett <Barrett.Murphy@cityofchicago.org>; Hernandez-Tomlin, Julie <Julie.HernandezTomlin@cityofchicago.org>; Litherland, Gary <Gary.Litherland@cityofchicago.org>; Caminer, Irene <Irene.Caminer@cityofchicago.org>; Putz, Andrea <Andrea.Putz@cityofchicago.org>; dave McMillan <dave.mcmillan@illinois.gov>; Wheat, Christopher <Christopher.Wheat@cityofchicago.org>; McMillan, Dave <DAVE.MCMILLAN@Illinois.gov>; Kelly, Mike <Mike.Kelly@cityofchicago.org>; Schwer, Patrick <Patrick.Schwer@cityofchicago.org>; Skiadopoulos, Frank <Frank.Skiadopoulos@cityofchicago.org>; O'Malley, Mark <Mark.OMalley@cityofchicago.org>; Salinas, Eduardo <Eduardo.Salinas@cityofchicago.org>; Litherland, Gary <Gary.Litherland@cityofchicago.org>

Cc: Mary Hollingsworth <MHolling@idem.IN.gov>; Korleski, Christopher <korleski.christopher@epa.gov>; feighnerb@michigan.gov

Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

Have they stopped the outfall?

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Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2017 10:35 AM

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Hi Alan: No update on quantity or concentration. The sampling from yesterday was indicating that the chromium had not reached Lake Michigan. More sampling is going to be done today.

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Dave and Tom

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Subject: [External] FW: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

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Cc: Maguire, Andrew <maguire.andrew@epa.gov>; Beslow, Mike <beslow.mike@epa.gov>; Lippert, Jeffrey <lippert.jeffrey@epa.gov>; Behnke, Kristina <behnke.kristina@epa.gov>; Mendez, Thomas <mendez.thomas@epa.gov>
Subject: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

ER Notification #1 (Initial) – U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release, Portage, IN

Region 5 ER Notification #1 (Initial): NRC# 1175399, U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release, Portage, IN

Report as of: 09/23/16 at 13:45 CDT

Overview: On 4/11/17 at approximately 09:30 central time, U.S Steel Corporation discovered a green discoloration in the water near an outfall at their facility in Portage, IN, discharging into Burns Waterway (aka Burns Ditch). U.S. Steel reported this to the National Response Center (NRC #1175399). OSC Thomas contacted the reporting party regarding this incident, and was told the facility was conducting an investigation to determine what it was. OSC Thomas then contacted OSCs Beslow and Mendez, who were nearby, to investigate as well.

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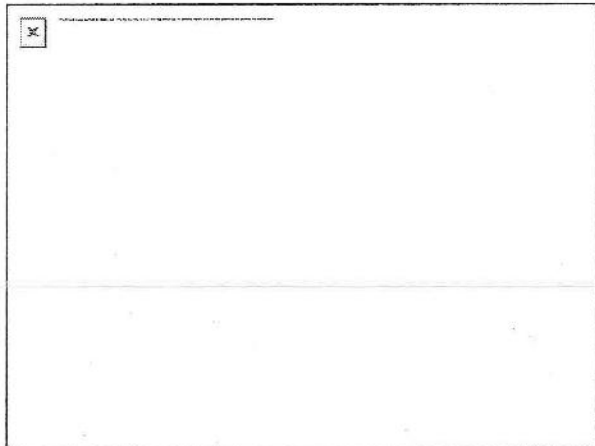
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The facility has minimized the amount of water it is using to essential systems only to reduce through put.

Media Interest: No media interest at this time.

EPA Region 5 OSC contact: Andy Maguire, 312-758-8672



Craig Thomas
US EPA Region 5 On-Scene Coordinator
Emergency Response Branch
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312-886-5907 office
312-802-9637 cell



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<removed.txt>

<Routine Cr6+ Quarterly Results.pdf>

<Copy of 386402.xls>

<MP_CTR_JSM_Sample_Locations_USSteelSpill_20170412.pdf>

Poy, Thomas

From: Poy, Thomas
Sent: Thursday, April 13, 2017 11:02 AM
To: Mendez, Thomas
Subject: FW: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN
Attachments: removed.txt; Routine Cr6+ Quarterly Results.pdf; Copy of 386402.xls; MP_CTR_JSM_Sample_Locations_USSteelSpill_20170412.pdf

Tom: Per our discussion...

Tom Poy
Chief, Ground Water and Drinking Water Branch
USEPA - Region 5
(312) 886-5991

From: Poy, Thomas
Sent: Thursday, April 13, 2017 10:44 AM
To: Borries, Samuel <borries.samuel@epa.gov>
Cc: Korleski, Christopher <korleski.christopher@epa.gov>; Timothy Henry - EPA <Henry.Timothy@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

Sam: The first attachment are Chicago's quarterly monitoring for Cr+6 which shows that they normally detect it at the Southside crib at around 0.15 ug/L.

The second attachment is an Excel spreadsheet of their Southside crib monitoring from yesterday which shows concentrations in the normal range.

The last attachment is a map showing the locations of the sampling points of their boat. The horizontal distance between points in the grid area is 1 mile, vertical distance is 0.5 mile.

Alan will be sending me the sample results today but he told me that the concentration of Cr+6 at location 1G (sampled from the ship's sampling port) = 1.6 ug/L; 1GD (a dip sample) = 2.0 ug/L.

The results for 12G = 0.16 ug/L and 12GD = 0.16ug/L.

I'll send you the grid sampling results when I get them.

Tom

Tom Poy
Chief, Ground Water and Drinking Water Branch
USEPA - Region 5
(312) 886-5991

From: Stark, Alan [<mailto:Alan.Stark@cityofchicago.org>]
Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2017 6:05 PM
To: Poy, Thomas <poy.thomas@epa.gov>; Ames, Mort <Mort.Ames@cityofchicago.org>; Murphy, Barrett <Barrett.Murphy@cityofchicago.org>; Hernandez-Tomlin, Julie <Julie.HernandezTomlin@cityofchicago.org>; Litherland, Gary <Gary.Litherland@cityofchicago.org>; Caminer, Irene <Irene.Caminer@cityofchicago.org>; Putz, Andrea <Andrea.Putz@cityofchicago.org>; dave McMillan <dave.mcmillan@illinois.gov>; Wheat, Christopher <Christopher.Wheat@cityofchicago.org>; McMillan, Dave <DAVE.MCMILLAN@Illinois.gov>; Kelly, Mike <Mike.Kelly@cityofchicago.org>; Schwer, Patrick <Patrick.Schwer@cityofchicago.org>; Skiadopoulos, Frank <Frank.Skiadopoulos@cityofchicago.org>; O'Malley, Mark <Mark.OMalley@cityofchicago.org>; Salinas, Eduardo

<Eduardo.Salinas@cityofchicago.org>; Litherland, Gary <Gary.Litherland@cityofchicago.org>; Saleh, Hassen <Hassen.Saleh@cityofchicago.org>; Bresnahan, William <William.Bresnahan@cityofchicago.org>

Cc: Mary Hollingsworth <MHolling@idem.IN.gov>; Korleski, Christopher <korleski.christopher@epa.gov>; feighnerb@michigan.gov

Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

See below highlighted, results from first ten samples (excel sheet) in agreement with our routine samples collected quarterly. Remaining results from Crib lake survey being delivered to Eurofins (as of this email) to follow. Also attached GIS plot of lake grid survey, results to follow. As stated earlier further sampling will be based on final results.

Thanks

Alan

From: Nathan Trowbridge [mailto:NathanTrowbridge@eurofinsUS.com]

Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2017 5:30 PM

To: Stark, Alan

Subject: RE: COC Sheets

Thanks Alan,

I've attached data for the 1st 10 samples that were analyzed. The next 4, plus the ones coming in tonight should be ready by tomorrow morning. The data looks fairly steady each hour and what I saw of the next 4 was similar. I'll let you know more as soon as I have data.

If you need anything else, please let me know. I'll be here until all of the new samples are on the instrument. I'll be at home checking email after that.

Thanks,

Nathan Trowbridge

Phone: +1 574 472 5528

Mobile: +1 574 302 2590

Email: NathanTrowbridge@EurofinsUS.com

From: Stark, Alan [mailto:Alan.Stark@cityofchicago.org]

Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2017 6:09 PM

To: Nathan Trowbridge

Subject: COC Sheets

See attached completed COC from the morning and one from the Lake Survey that is on the way to you

Alan

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From: Stark, Alan
Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2017 12:23 PM
To: 'Poy, Thomas'; Ames, Mort; Murphy, Barrett; Hernandez-Tomlin, Julie; Litherland, Gary; Caminer, Irene; Putz, Andrea; dave McMillan; Wheat, Christopher; McMillan, Dave; Kelly, Mike; Schwer, Patrick; Skiadopoulos, Frank; O'Malley, Mark; Salinas, Eduardo; Litherland, Gary
Cc: Mary Hollingsworth; Korleski, Christopher; feighnerb@michigan.gov
Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

Thank you!

From: Poy, Thomas [<mailto:poy.thomas@epa.gov>]
Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2017 12:10 PM
To: Stark, Alan; Ames, Mort; Murphy, Barrett; Hernandez-Tomlin, Julie; Litherland, Gary; Caminer, Irene; Putz, Andrea; dave McMillan; Wheat, Christopher; McMillan, Dave; Kelly, Mike; Schwer, Patrick; Skiadopoulos, Frank; O'Malley, Mark; Salinas, Eduardo; Litherland, Gary
Cc: Mary Hollingsworth; Korleski, Christopher; feighnerb@michigan.gov
Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

I believe the source of the active release has been stopped and it is just residual in the outfall now.

Tom

Tom Poy
Chief, Ground Water and Drinking Water Branch
USEPA - Region 5
(312) 886-5991

From: Stark, Alan [<mailto:Alan.Stark@cityofchicago.org>]
Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2017 10:37 AM
To: Poy, Thomas <poy.thomas@epa.gov>; Ames, Mort <Mort.Ames@cityofchicago.org>; Murphy, Barrett <Barrett.Murphy@cityofchicago.org>; Hernandez-Tomlin, Julie <Julie.HernandezTomlin@cityofchicago.org>; Litherland, Gary <Gary.Litherland@cityofchicago.org>; Caminer, Irene <Irene.Caminer@cityofchicago.org>; Putz, Andrea <Andrea.Putz@cityofchicago.org>; dave McMillan <dave.mcmillan@illinois.gov>; Wheat, Christopher <Christopher.Wheat@cityofchicago.org>; McMillan, Dave <DAVE.MCMILLAN@Illinois.gov>; Kelly, Mike <Mike.Kelly@cityofchicago.org>; Schwer, Patrick <Patrick.Schwer@cityofchicago.org>; Skiadopoulos, Frank <Frank.Skiadopoulos@cityofchicago.org>; O'Malley, Mark <Mark.OMalley@cityofchicago.org>; Salinas, Eduardo <Eduardo.Salinas@cityofchicago.org>; Litherland, Gary <Gary.Litherland@cityofchicago.org>
Cc: Mary Hollingsworth <MHolling@idem.IN.gov>; Korleski, Christopher <korleski.christopher@epa.gov>; feighnerb@michigan.gov
Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

Have they stopped the outfall?

From: Poy, Thomas [mailto:poy.thomas@epa.gov]

Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2017 10:35 AM

To: Stark, Alan; Ames, Mort; Murphy, Barrett; Hernandez-Tomlin, Julie; Litherland, Gary; Caminer, Irene; Putz, Andrea; dave McMillan; Wheat, Christopher; McMillan, Dave; Kelly, Mike; Schwer, Patrick; Skiadopoulos, Frank; O'Malley, Mark; Salinas, Eduardo; Litherland, Gary

Cc: Mary Hollingsworth; Korleski, Christopher; feighnerb@michigan.gov

Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

Hi Alan: No update on quantity or concentration. The sampling from yesterday was indicating that the chromium had not reached Lake Michigan. More sampling is going to be done today.

Tom

Tom Poy

Chief, Ground Water and Drinking Water Branch

USEPA - Region 5

(312) 886-5991

From: Stark, Alan [mailto:Alan.Stark@cityofchicago.org]

Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2017 10:08 AM

To: Ames, Mort <Mort.Ames@cityofchicago.org>; Murphy, Barrett <Barrett.Murphy@cityofchicago.org>; Hernandez-Tomlin, Julie <Julie.HernandezTomlin@cityofchicago.org>; Litherland, Gary <Gary.Litherland@cityofchicago.org>; Caminer, Irene <Irene.Caminer@cityofchicago.org>; Putz, Andrea <Andrea.Putz@cityofchicago.org>; Poy, Thomas <poy.thomas@epa.gov>; dave McMillan <dave.mcmillan@illinois.gov>; Wheat, Christopher <Christopher.Wheat@cityofchicago.org>; McMillan, Dave <DAVE.MCMILLAN@Illinois.gov>; Kelly, Mike <Mike.Kelly@cityofchicago.org>; Schwer, Patrick <Patrick.Schwer@cityofchicago.org>; Skiadopoulos, Frank <Frank.Skiadopoulos@cityofchicago.org>; O'Malley, Mark <Mark.OMalley@cityofchicago.org>; Salinas, Eduardo <Eduardo.Salinas@cityofchicago.org>; Litherland, Gary <Gary.Litherland@cityofchicago.org>

Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

Hi Tom,

Any updates, release quantity and concentration?

Lake currents still counter clockwise. Hourly samples from SWPP's 68th Street Crib complex in route to Eurofins in South Bend. Lake Survey underway, samples will be driven to Eurofins once they boat gets back. Results will be forwarded as I get them. Crib sampling now every two hours lab results will dictated further sampling and possible mitigation.

Thanks

Alan

From: Stark, Alan

Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2017 1:44 AM

To: Ames, Mort; Murphy, Barrett; Hernandez-Tomlin, Julie; Litherland, Gary; Caminer, Irene; Putz, Andrea; Poy, Thomas; dave McMillan; Wheat, Christopher

Subject: Fwd: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

Tom

Thank you for the update.

We are collecting hourly at SWPP crib, driving samples to Euro fins this morning, results later afternoon. Lake survey in morning, drive samples in afternoon, results late night. I will forward results to you and Dave as I get them.

Thanks
Alan

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

----- Original message -----

From: "Poy, Thomas" <poy.thomas@epa.gov>

Date: 4/11/17 11:40 PM (GMT-06:00)

To: "Stark, Alan" <Alan.Stark@cityofchicago.org>, Dave McMillan <dave.mcmillan@illinois.gov>, Mary Hollingsworth <MHolling@idem.IN.gov>, feighnerb@michigan.gov

Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

The last that I heard, they were still investigating the cause and volume of the release.

A set of samples were collected before dark. Samples were taken upstream of the outfall, at the outfall, and downstream of the outfall. Two samples were also taken at the nearby Indiana American Water intake and wet well. A subset of samples, including the samples taken at the water intake, were sent to an on-site lab for rapid turnaround. The highest concentration of in the samples was detected at the outfall was 949 ppb. The samples taken at the American Water intake and wet well were non-detects for total chromium. The rest of the samples will be sent off to a lab in Valparaiso later tonight to be run for hexavalent chromium. Overnight, samples will be taken at the outfall every 2 hours and another full round of samples will be taken tomorrow morning

Tom Poy
Chief, Ground Water and Drinking Water Branch
USEPA - Region 5
(312) 886-5991

From: Stark, Alan [<mailto:Alan.Stark@cityofchicago.org>]

Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 8:02 PM

To: Poy, Thomas <poy.thomas@epa.gov>

Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

Any updates?

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

----- Original message -----

From: "Poy, Thomas" <poy.thomas@epa.gov>

Date: 4/11/17 2:53 PM (GMT-06:00)

To: "Stark, Alan" <Alan.Stark@cityofchicago.org>

Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

Alan: Thanks for the information. I'm sharing what you're doing with the OSCs at the site.

Tom

Tom Poy
Chief, Ground Water and Drinking Water Branch
USEPA - Region 5
(312) 886-5991

From: Stark, Alan [mailto:Alan.Stark@cityofchicago.org]
Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 2:19 PM
To: McMillan, Dave <DAVE.MCMILLAN@Illinois.gov>; Poy, Thomas <poy.thomas@epa.gov>
Cc: Murphy, Barrett <Barrett.Murphy@cityofchicago.org>; Hernandez-Tomlin, Julie <Julie.HernandezTomlin@cityofchicago.org>; Putz, Andrea <Andrea.Putz@cityofchicago.org>; Kelly, Mike <Mike.Kelly@cityofchicago.org>; Schwer, Patrick <Patrick.Schwer@cityofchicago.org>; O'Malley, Mark <Mark.OMalley@cityofchicago.org>; Salinas, Eduardo <Eduardo.Salinas@cityofchicago.org>; Skiadopoulos, Frank <Frank.Skiadopoulos@cityofchicago.org>; Litherland, Gary <Gary.Litherland@cityofchicago.org>; Caminer, Irene <Irene.Caminer@cityofchicago.org>
Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

Dave and Tom

Per our discussion, NOAA currents showing counter clockwise current in Lake Michigan and winds out of the west. For precaution we will sample for Cr6+ at SWPP Crib hourly once we get the sample bottles from the lab. Tomorrow, out of an abundance of caution, we will do a grid sampling of Lake Michigan, quarter mile off shore near Gary Indiana for Cr6+. Any questions please call me anytime 312-617-4233.

Thanks
Alan

From: McMillan, Dave [mailto:DAVE.MCMILLAN@Illinois.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 1:53 PM
To: Stark, Alan
Subject: FW: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

Additional information per our discussion.

From: Lauder, Roger
Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 1:50 PM
To: McMillan, Dave <DAVE.MCMILLAN@Illinois.gov>; Cook, David <DAVID.COOK@Illinois.gov>
Subject: FW: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

FYI

From: Borries, Samuel [mailto:borries.samuel@epa.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 1:48 PM
To: Lauder, Roger

Cc: El-Zein, Jason

Subject: [External] FW: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

Roger,

Here is the ER notification report with the current information.

From: Thomas, Craig

Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 1:46 PM

To: R5 ER Notification List <R5_ER_Notification_List@epa.gov>

Cc: Maguire, Andrew <maguire.andrew@epa.gov>; Beslow, Mike <beslow.mike@epa.gov>; Lippert, Jeffrey <lippert.jeffrey@epa.gov>; Behnke, Kristina <behnke.kristina@epa.gov>; Mendez, Thomas <mendez.thomas@epa.gov>

Subject: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

ER Notification #1 (Initial) – U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release, Portage, IN

Region 5 ER Notification #1 (Initial): NRC# 1175399, U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release, Portage, IN

Report as of: 09/23/16 at 13:45 CDT

Overview: On 4/11/17 at approximately 09:30 central time, U.S Steel Corporation discovered a green discoloration in the water near an outfall at their facility in Portage, IN, discharging into Burns Waterway (aka Burns Ditch). U.S. Steel reported this to the National Response Center (NRC #1175399). OSC Thomas contacted the reporting party regarding this incident, and was told the facility was conducting an investigation to determine what it was. OSC Thomas then contacted OSCs Beslow and Mendez, who were nearby, to investigate as well.

Upon arriving at the scene, OSCs Beslow and Mendez met with U.S Steel's environmental manager and were told that the facility had determined the material was hexavalent chrome. This information was immediately shared with United States Coast Guard personnel, who were also responding.

State, Local, and other Federal Agency Action: The USCG, and IDEM have arrived on scene. EPA has notified local water intakes in Gary, East Chicago, and Ogden Dunes. Indiana American Water in Ogden Dunes has shut down their water intake and has approximately 4 hours of reserves.

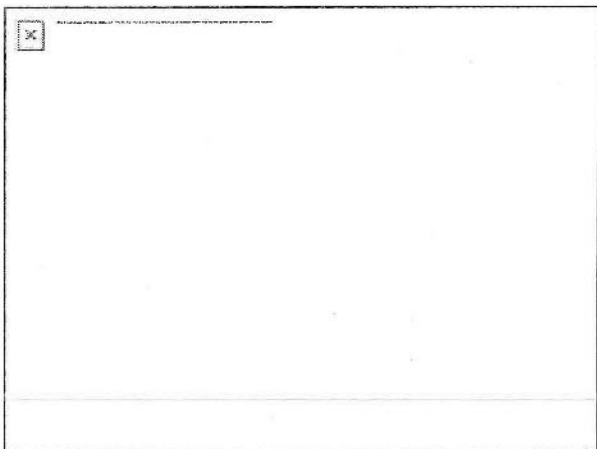
EPA has also notified U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Department of the Interior and the National Park Service.

EPA Actions: EPA OSC Andy Maguire and START are mobilizing to the scene to conduct water sampling. Investigations are under way to determine how the hexavalent chrome released, the amount of hexavalent chrome released and the extent of the release into the waterway.

The facility has minimized the amount of water it is using to essential systems only to reduce through put.

Media Interest: No media interest at this time.

EPA Region 5 OSC contact: Andy Maguire, 312-758-8672



Craig Thomas
US EPA Region 5 On-Scene Coordinator
Emergency Response Branch
77 W. Jackson Blvd., SE-5J
Chicago, IL 60604
312-886-5907 office
312-802-9637 cell



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Poy, Thomas

From: Mendez, Thomas
Sent: Thursday, April 13, 2017 12:08 PM
To: Borries, Samuel; El-Zein, Jason; Brown, Jaime; Ribordy, Michael; Mankowski, Matthew; Augustyn, James; Kelley, Jeff; Bassler, Rachel; Deamer, Eileen; dgreinke@idem.IN.gov
Cc: Eoc, Epahq; Behnke, Kristina; Beslow, Mike; Maguire, Andrew; Thomas, Craig; Lippert, Jeffrey; Cashmere, Jason; Goeks, Todd; Johnson, Mark; Karecki, Edward; Rowan, Anne; Reshkin, Karen; Maraldo, Dean; Donnelly, Peggy; Poy, Thomas; Henry, Timothy; Korleski, Christopher
Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release, Portage, IN

Update as of: 4/13/17 at 12:00 CST

Overview: Stakeholders convened for a morning meeting to discuss the ongoing response at US Steel regarding the release of hexavalent chrome. Stakeholders present included USEPA, US Steel, IDEM, National Park Service and Indiana American Water, Portage Police and a representatives for the beaches of City of Portage. Sampling continued for a third day on 4/13/17.

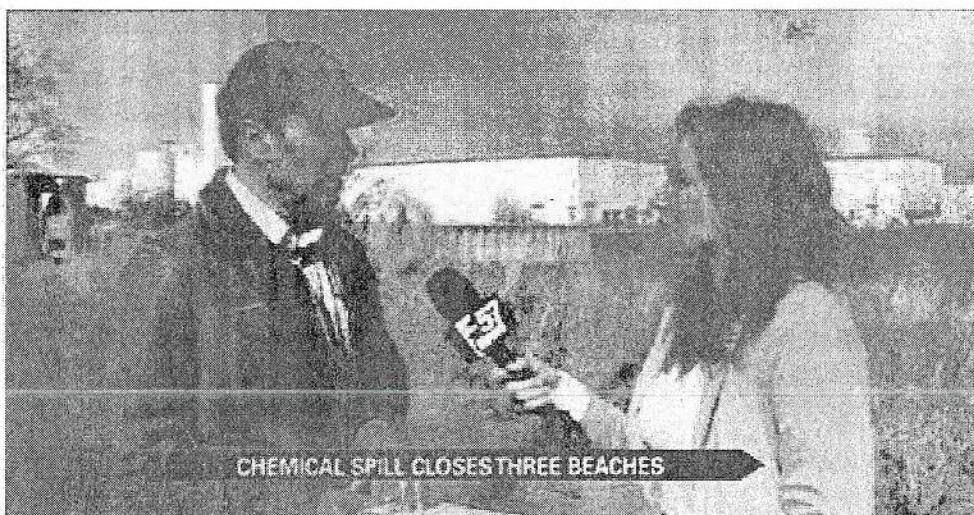
- Sampling Data
 - Data has been coming in from earlier sampling events.
 - Quality control is being performed on the data and it will be shared with relevant stakeholders as soon as it has gone through QA/QC.
- Current Sampling
 - A larger boat was secured for sampling today and all non-wading water samples will be taken from this one boat.
 - Shoreline and wading level sediment and water samples will be completed

EPA, State, Local, and other Federal Agency Action:

- Indiana American Water
 - Indiana American Water will continue to have their water intake closed and has indicated that it will not be reopened until at least Monday. They have requested sampling to continue and are looking for three consecutive days of non-detect.
- National Park Service
 - National Park Service will continue to have their beaches closed until sampling data can show that no contamination is present. Sampling at their beaches continues.

NEWS Coverage:

<http://www.abc57.com/clip/13245309/epa-responds-to-chemical-spill-that-close-parts-of-lake-michigan>



EPA responds to chemical spill that close parts of Lake Michigan

ABC57 produces 44.5 hours of live, local news and weather.

EPA Region 5 OSC contact: Andy Maguire, 312-758-8672

Thomas Mendez
Emergency Response Branch
On Scene Coordinator
U.S. EPA Region 5
77 W Jackson Blvd (SE-5J)
Chicago, Illinois 60604
312-353-8242

Poy, Thomas

From: Stark, Alan <Alan.Stark@cityofchicago.org>
Sent: Thursday, April 13, 2017 1:22 PM
To: Poy, Thomas; Ames, Mort; Murphy, Barrett; Hernandez-Tomlin, Julie; Litherland, Gary; Caminer, Irene; Putz, Andrea; dave McMillan; Wheat, Christopher; McMillan, Dave; Kelly, Mike; Schwer, Patrick; Skiadopoulos, Frank; O'Malley, Mark; Salinas, Eduardo; Litherland, Gary; Saleh, Hassen; Bresnahan, William
Cc: Mary Hollingsworth; Korleski, Christopher; feighnerb@michigan.gov
Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN
Attachments: removed.txt; US Steel Lake Survey East of SWPP 68th Crib 041217 Cr+.xls; SWPP 68th Crib 041217 Cr+.xls; Cr6+ Lk Survey 041217.pdf

All

Attached are the results from yesterday

- All Samples collected at SWPP from SWPP's 68th Street Crib Complex are within normal range.
- The Lake Survey (see attached) consisted of 16 sample locations and 19 samples. Three samples with the suffix of D indicates a Dip control sample to validate pumped sample.
- Location 1G and 1GD show results an order of magnitude higher than all other results at 2.0 and 1.6 respectively. This location is one of the nearest sampling locations (about a mile) near the spill.

Today

- IEPA and USEPA were notified by phone this morning
- It was determined to expand the grid based Lake Survey sampling to verify and follow the possible plume and continue sampling SWPP's Crib every two hours.
- NOAA Lake Michigan flow current model shows the CURRENT HAS REVERSED from the previous two days of west to east, NOW THE CURRENT IS EAST TO WEST.
- THEREFORE CHANGE IN DIRECTION OF PLUME TO THE WEST
- TESTING WILL CONTINUE

Thanks
Alan

Alan,

Attached are 2 excel spreadsheets with all of the results from samples received yesterday. Final reports will hopefully be sent out later today.

If you need anything else, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Nathan Trowbridge
Client Services Manager

Eurofins Eaton Analytical, Inc.
110 South Hill Street, South Bend, IN 46617
Phone: 574 472 5528
Mobile: 574 302 2590

Email: NathanTrowbridge@eurofinsUS.com

Website: <http://www.EurofinsUS.com/Eaton>

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From: Stark, Alan

Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2017 6:04 PM

To: 'Poy, Thomas'; Ames, Mort; Murphy, Barrett; Hernandez-Tomlin, Julie; Litherland, Gary; Caminer, Irene; Putz, Andrea; 'dave McMillan'; Wheat, Christopher; 'McMillan, Dave'; Kelly, Mike; Schwer, Patrick; Skiadopoulos, Frank; O'Malley, Mark; Salinas, Eduardo; Litherland, Gary; Saleh, Hassen; Bresnahan, William

Cc: 'Mary Hollingsworth'; 'Korleski, Christopher'; 'feighnerb@michigan.gov'

Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

See below highlighted, results from first ten samples (excel sheet) in agreement with our routine samples collected quarterly. Remaining results from Crib lake survey being delivered to Eurofins (as of this email) to follow. Also attached GIS plot of lake grid survey, results to follow. As stated earlier further sampling will be based on final results.

Thanks

Alan

From: Nathan Trowbridge [<mailto:NathanTrowbridge@eurofinsUS.com>]

Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2017 5:30 PM

To: Stark, Alan

Subject: RE: COC Sheets

Thanks Alan,

I've attached data for the 1st 10 samples that were analyzed. The next 4, plus the ones coming in tonight should be ready by tomorrow morning. The data looks fairly steady each hour and what I saw of the next 4 was similar. I'll let you know more as soon as I have data.

If you need anything else, please let me know. I'll be here until all of the new samples are on the instrument. I'll be at home checking email after that.

Thanks,

Nathan Trowbridge

Phone: +1 574 472 5528

Mobile: +1 574 302 2590

Email: NathanTrowbridge@EurofinsUS.com

From: Stark, Alan [<mailto:Alan.Stark@cityofchicago.org>]
Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2017 6:09 PM
To: Nathan Trowbridge
Subject: COC Sheets

See attached completed COC from the morning and one from the Lake Survey that is on the way to you

Alan

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From: Stark, Alan
Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2017 12:23 PM
To: 'Poy, Thomas'; Ames, Mort; Murphy, Barrett; Hernandez-Tomlin, Julie; Litherland, Gary; Caminer, Irene; Putz, Andrea; dave McMillan; Wheat, Christopher; McMillan, Dave; Kelly, Mike; Schwer, Patrick; Skiadopoulos, Frank; O'Malley, Mark; Salinas, Eduardo; Litherland, Gary
Cc: Mary Hollingsworth; Korleski, Christopher; feighnerb@michigan.gov
Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

Thank you!

From: Poy, Thomas [<mailto:poy.thomas@epa.gov>]
Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2017 12:10 PM
To: Stark, Alan; Ames, Mort; Murphy, Barrett; Hernandez-Tomlin, Julie; Litherland, Gary; Caminer, Irene; Putz, Andrea; dave McMillan; Wheat, Christopher; McMillan, Dave; Kelly, Mike; Schwer, Patrick; Skiadopoulos, Frank; O'Malley, Mark; Salinas, Eduardo; Litherland, Gary
Cc: Mary Hollingsworth; Korleski, Christopher; feighnerb@michigan.gov
Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

I believe the source of the active release has been stopped and it is just residual in the outfall now.

Tom

Tom Poy
Chief, Ground Water and Drinking Water Branch
USEPA - Region 5
(312) 886-5991

From: Stark, Alan [<mailto:Alan.Stark@cityofchicago.org>]
Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2017 10:37 AM

To: Poy, Thomas <poy.thomas@epa.gov>; Ames, Mort <Mort.Ames@cityofchicago.org>; Murphy, Barrett <Barrett.Murphy@cityofchicago.org>; Hernandez-Tomlin, Julie <Julie.HernandezTomlin@cityofchicago.org>; Litherland, Gary <Gary.Litherland@cityofchicago.org>; Caminer, Irene <Irene.Caminer@cityofchicago.org>; Putz, Andrea <Andrea.Putz@cityofchicago.org>; dave McMillan <dave.mcmillan@illinois.gov>; Wheat, Christopher <Christopher.Wheat@cityofchicago.org>; McMillan, Dave <DAVE.MCMILLAN@Illinois.gov>; Kelly, Mike <Mike.Kelly@cityofchicago.org>; Schwer, Patrick <Patrick.Schwer@cityofchicago.org>; Skiadopoulos, Frank <Frank.Skiadopoulos@cityofchicago.org>; O'Malley, Mark <Mark.OMalley@cityofchicago.org>; Salinas, Eduardo <Eduardo.Salinas@cityofchicago.org>; Litherland, Gary <Gary.Litherland@cityofchicago.org>
Cc: Mary Hollingsworth <MHolling@idem.IN.gov>; Korleski, Christopher <korleski.christopher@epa.gov>; feighnerb@michigan.gov
Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

Have they stopped the outfall?

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Hi Alan: No update on quantity or concentration. The sampling from yesterday was indicating that the chromium had not reached Lake Michigan. More sampling is going to be done today.

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Subject: Fwd: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

Tom
Thank you for the update.
We are collecting hourly at SWPP crib, driving samples to Euro fins this morning, results later afternoon. Lake survey in morning, drive samples in afternoon, results late night. I will forward results to you and Dave as I get them.

Thanks
Alan

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

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From: "Poy, Thomas" <poy.thomas@epa.gov>
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Any updates?

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

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Date: 4/11/17 2:53 PM (GMT-06:00)

To: "Stark, Alan" <Alan.Stark@cityofchicago.org>

Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

Alan: Thanks for the information. I'm sharing what you're doing with the OSCs at the site.

Tom

Tom Poy

Chief, Ground Water and Drinking Water Branch

USEPA - Region 5

(312) 886-5991

From: Stark, Alan [<mailto:Alan.Stark@cityofchicago.org>]

Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 2:19 PM

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Cc: Murphy, Barrett <Barrett.Murphy@cityofchicago.org>; Hernandez-Tomlin, Julie

<Julie.HernandezTomlin@cityofchicago.org>; Putz, Andrea <Andrea.Putz@cityofchicago.org>; Kelly, Mike

<Mike.Kelly@cityofchicago.org>; Schwer, Patrick <Patrick.Schwer@cityofchicago.org>; O'Malley, Mark

<Mark.OMalley@cityofchicago.org>; Salinas, Eduardo <Eduardo.Salinas@cityofchicago.org>; Skiadopoulos, Frank

<Frank.Skiadopoulos@cityofchicago.org>; Litherland, Gary <Gary.Litherland@cityofchicago.org>; Caminer, Irene

<Irene.Caminer@cityofchicago.org>

Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

Dave and Tom

Per our discussion, NOAA currents showing counter clockwise current in Lake Michigan and winds out of the west. For precaution we will sample for Cr6+ at SWPP Crib hourly once we get the sample bottles from the lab. Tomorrow, out of an abundance of caution, we will do a grid sampling of Lake Michigan, quarter mile off shore near Gary Indiana for Cr6+. Any questions please call me anytime 312-617-4233.

Thanks

Alan

From: McMillan, Dave [<mailto:DAVE.MCMILLAN@Illinois.gov>]

Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 1:53 PM

To: Stark, Alan

Subject: FW: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

Additional information per our discussion.

From: Lauder, Roger
Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 1:50 PM
To: McMillan, Dave <DAVE.MCMILLAN@Illinois.gov>; Cook, David <DAVID.COOK@Illinois.gov>
Subject: FW: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

FYI

From: Borries, Samuel [mailto:borries.samuel@epa.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 1:48 PM
To: Lauder, Roger
Cc: El-Zein, Jason
Subject: [External] FW: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

Roger,
Here is the ER notification report with the current information.

From: Thomas, Craig
Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 1:46 PM
To: R5 ER Notification List <R5_ER_Notification_List@epa.gov>
Cc: Maguire, Andrew <maguire.andrew@epa.gov>; Beslow, Mike <beslow.mike@epa.gov>; Lippert, Jeffrey <lippert.jeffrey@epa.gov>; Behnke, Kristina <behnke.kristina@epa.gov>; Mendez, Thomas <mendez.thomas@epa.gov>
Subject: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

ER Notification #1 (Initial) – U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release, Portage, IN

Region 5 ER Notification #1 (Initial): NRC# 1175399, U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release, Portage, IN

Report as of: 09/23/16 at 13:45 CDT

Overview: On 4/11/17 at approximately 09:30 central time, U.S Steel Corporation discovered a green discoloration in the water near an outfall at their facility in Portage, IN, discharging into Burns Waterway (aka Burns Ditch). U.S. Steel reported this to the National Response Center (NRC #1175399). OSC Thomas contacted the reporting party regarding this incident, and was told the facility was conducting an investigation to determine what it was. OSC Thomas then contacted OSCs Beslow and Mendez, who were nearby, to investigate as well.

Upon arriving at the scene, OSCs Beslow and Mendez met with U.S Steel's environmental manager and were told that the facility had determined the material was hexavalent chrome. This information was immediately shared with United States Coast Guard personnel, who were also responding.

State, Local, and other Federal Agency Action: The USCG, and IDEM have arrived on scene. EPA has notified local water intakes in Gary, East Chicago, and Ogden Dunes. Indiana American Water in Ogden Dunes has shut down their water intake and has approximately 4 hours of reserves.

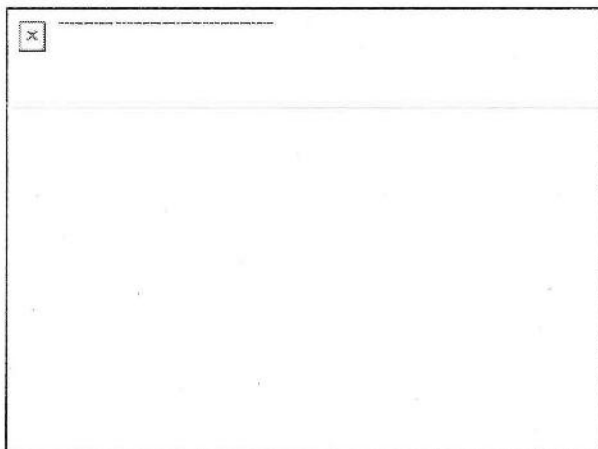
EPA has also notified U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Department of the Interior and the National Park Service.

EPA Actions: EPA OSC Andy Maguire and START are mobilizing to the scene to conduct water sampling. Investigations are under way to determine how the hexavalent chrome released, the amount of hexavalent chrome released and the extent of the release into the waterway.

The facility has minimized the amount of water it is using to essential systems only to reduce through put.

Media Interest: No media interest at this time.

EPA Region 5 OSC contact: Andy Maguire, 312-758-8672



Craig Thomas
US EPA Region 5 On-Scene Coordinator
Emergency Response Branch
77 W. Jackson Blvd., SE-5J
Chicago, IL 60604
312-886-5907 office
312-802-9637 cell



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Poy, Thomas

From: Poy, Thomas
Sent: Thursday, April 13, 2017 1:56 PM
To: Borries, Samuel; Mendez, Thomas
Cc: Korleski, Christopher; Timothy Henry - EPA
Subject: FW: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN
Attachments: removed.txt; US Steel Lake Survey East of SWPP 68th Crib 041217 Cr+.xls; SWPP 68th Crib 041217 Cr+.xls; Cr6+ Lk Survey 041217.pdf

Here are Chicago's analytical results from their Lake Michigan monitoring. Only the one location close to the US Steel plant has higher levels of Cr+6 at 2.0 ug/L and 1/6 ug/L.

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From: Stark, Alan [mailto:Alan.Stark@cityofchicago.org]
Sent: Thursday, April 13, 2017 1:22 PM
To: Poy, Thomas <poy.thomas@epa.gov>; Ames, Mort <Mort.Ames@cityofchicago.org>; Murphy, Barrett <Barrett.Murphy@cityofchicago.org>; Hernandez-Tomlin, Julie <Julie.HernandezTomlin@cityofchicago.org>; Litherland, Gary <Gary.Litherland@cityofchicago.org>; Caminer, Irene <Irene.Caminer@cityofchicago.org>; Putz, Andrea <Andrea.Putz@cityofchicago.org>; dave McMillan <dave.mcmillan@illinois.gov>; Wheat, Christopher <Christopher.Wheat@cityofchicago.org>; McMillan, Dave <DAVE.MCMILLAN@Illinois.gov>; Kelly, Mike <Mike.Kelly@cityofchicago.org>; Schwer, Patrick <Patrick.Schwer@cityofchicago.org>; Skiadopoulos, Frank <Frank.Skiadopoulos@cityofchicago.org>; O'Malley, Mark <Mark.OMalley@cityofchicago.org>; Salinas, Eduardo <Eduardo.Salinas@cityofchicago.org>; Litherland, Gary <Gary.Litherland@cityofchicago.org>; Saleh, Hassen <Hassen.Saleh@cityofchicago.org>; Bresnahan, William <William.Bresnahan@cityofchicago.org>
Cc: Mary Hollingsworth <MHolling@idem.IN.gov>; Korleski, Christopher <korleski.christopher@epa.gov>; feighnerb@michigan.gov
Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

All

Attached are the results from yesterday

- All Samples collected at SWPP from SWPP's 68th Street Crib Complex are within normal range.
- The Lake Survey (see attached) consisted of 16 sample locations and 19 samples. Three samples with the suffix of D indicates a Dip control sample to validate pumped sample.
- Location 1G and 1GD show results an order of magnitude higher than all other results at 2.0 and 1.6 respectively. This location is one of the nearest sampling locations (about a mile) near the spill.

Today

- IEPA and USEPA were notified by phone this morning
- It was determined to expand the grid based Lake Survey sampling to verify and follow the possible plume and continue sampling SWPP's Crib every two hours.
- NOAA Lake Michigan flow current model shows the CURRENT HAS REVERSED from the previous two days of west to east, NOW THE CURRENT IS EAST TO WEST.
- THEREFORE CHANGE IN DIRECTION OF PLUME TO THE WEST
- TESTING WILL CONTINUE

Thanks

Alan

Alan,

Attached are 2 excel spreadsheets with all of the results from samples received yesterday. Final reports will hopefully be sent out later today.

If you need anything else, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Nathan Trowbridge
Client Services Manager

Eurofins Eaton Analytical, Inc.
110 South Hill Street, South Bend, IN 46617
Phone: 574 472 5528
Mobile: 574 302 2590

Email: NathanTrowbridge@eurofinsUS.com
Website: <http://www.EurofinsUS.com/Eaton>

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From: Stark, Alan
Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2017 6:04 PM
To: 'Poy, Thomas'; Ames, Mort; Murphy, Barrett; Hernandez-Tomlin, Julie; Litherland, Gary; Caminer, Irene; Putz, Andrea; 'dave McMillan'; Wheat, Christopher; 'McMillan, Dave'; Kelly, Mike; Schwer, Patrick; Skiadopoulos, Frank; O'Malley, Mark; Salinas, Eduardo; Litherland, Gary; Saleh, Hassen; Bresnahan, William
Cc: 'Mary Hollingsworth'; 'Korleski, Christopher'; 'feighnerb@michigan.gov'
Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

See below highlighted, results from first ten samples (excel sheet) in agreement with our routine samples collected quarterly. Remaining results from Crib lake survey being delivered to Eurofins (as of this email) to follow. Also attached GIS plot of lake grid survey, results to follow. As stated earlier further sampling will be based on final results.

Thanks
Alan

From: Nathan Trowbridge [<mailto:NathanTrowbridge@eurofinsUS.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2017 5:30 PM

To: Stark, Alan
Subject: RE: COC Sheets

Thanks Alan,

I've attached data for the 1st 10 samples that were analyzed. The next 4, plus the ones coming in tonight should be ready by tomorrow morning. The data looks fairly steady each hour and what I saw of the next 4 was similar. I'll let you know more as soon as I have data.

If you need anything else, please let me know. I'll be here until all of the new samples are on the instrument. I'll be at home checking email after that.

Thanks,

Nathan Trowbridge

Phone: +1 574 472 5528
Mobile: +1 574 302 2590
Email: NathanTrowbridge@EurofinsUS.com

From: Stark, Alan [<mailto:Alan.Stark@cityofchicago.org>]
Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2017 6:09 PM
To: Nathan Trowbridge
Subject: COC Sheets

See attached completed COC from the morning and one from the Lake Survey that is on the way to you

Alan

This e-mail, and any attachments thereto, is intended only for use by the addressee(s) named herein and may contain legally privileged and/or confidential information. If you are not the intended recipient of this e-mail (or the person responsible for delivering this document to the intended recipient), you are hereby notified that any dissemination, distribution, printing or copying of this e-mail, and any attachment thereto, is strictly prohibited. If you have received this e-mail in error, please respond to the individual sending the message, and permanently delete the original and any copy of any e-mail and printout thereof.

Notify us [here](#) to report this email as spam.

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From: Stark, Alan [<mailto:Alan.Stark@cityofchicago.org>]
Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 2:19 PM
To: McMillan, Dave <DAVE.MCMILLAN@Illinois.gov>; Poy, Thomas <poy.thomas@epa.gov>
Cc: Murphy, Barrett <Barrett.Murphy@cityofchicago.org>; Hernandez-Tomlin, Julie <Julie.HernandezTomlin@cityofchicago.org>; Putz, Andrea <Andrea.Putz@cityofchicago.org>; Kelly, Mike <Mike.Kelly@cityofchicago.org>; Schwer, Patrick <Patrick.Schwer@cityofchicago.org>; O'Malley, Mark <Mark.OMalley@cityofchicago.org>; Salinas, Eduardo <Eduardo.Salinas@cityofchicago.org>; Skiadopoulos, Frank

<Frank.Skiadopoulos@cityofchicago.org>; Litherland, Gary <Gary.Litherland@cityofchicago.org>; Caminer, Irene <Irene.Caminer@cityofchicago.org>

Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

Dave and Tom

Per our discussion, NOAA currents showing counter clockwise current in Lake Michigan and winds out of the west. For precaution we will sample for Cr6+ at SWPP Crib hourly once we get the sample bottles from the lab. Tomorrow, out of an abundance of caution, we will do a grid sampling of Lake Michigan, quarter mile off shore near Gary Indiana for Cr6+. Any questions please call me anytime 312-617-4233.

Thanks

Alan

From: McMillan, Dave [mailto:DAVE.MCMILLAN@Illinois.gov]

Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 1:53 PM

To: Stark, Alan

Subject: FW: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

Additional information per our discussion.

From: Lauder, Roger

Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 1:50 PM

To: McMillan, Dave <DAVE.MCMILLAN@Illinois.gov>; Cook, David <DAVID.COOK@Illinois.gov>

Subject: FW: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

FYI

From: Borries, Samuel [mailto:borries.samuel@epa.gov]

Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 1:48 PM

To: Lauder, Roger

Cc: El-Zein, Jason

Subject: [External] FW: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

Roger,

Here is the ER notification report with the current information.

From: Thomas, Craig

Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 1:46 PM

To: R5 ER Notification List <R5_ER_Notification_List@epa.gov>

Cc: Maguire, Andrew <maguire.andrew@epa.gov>; Beslow, Mike <beslow.mike@epa.gov>; Lippert, Jeffrey <lippert.jeffrey@epa.gov>; Behnke, Kristina <behnke.kristina@epa.gov>; Mendez, Thomas <mendez.thomas@epa.gov>

Subject: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

ER Notification #1 (Initial) – U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release, Portage, IN

Region 5 ER Notification #1 (Initial): NRC# 1175399, U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release, Portage, IN

Report as of: 09/23/16 at 13:45 CDT

Overview: On 4/11/17 at approximately 09:30 central time, U.S Steel Corporation discovered a green discoloration in the water near an outfall at their facility in Portage, IN, discharging into Burns Waterway (aka Burns Ditch). U.S. Steel reported this to the National Response Center (NRC #1175399). OSC Thomas contacted the reporting party regarding this incident, and was told the facility was conducting an investigation to determine what it was. OSC Thomas then contacted OSCs Beslow and Mendez, who were nearby, to investigate as well.

Upon arriving at the scene, OSCs Beslow and Mendez met with U.S Steel's environmental manager and were told that the facility had determined the material was hexavalent chrome. This information was immediately shared with United States Coast Guard personnel, who were also responding.

State, Local, and other Federal Agency Action: The USCG, and IDEM have arrived on scene. EPA has notified local water intakes in Gary, East Chicago, and Ogden Dunes. Indiana American Water in Ogden Dunes has shut down their water intake and has approximately 4 hours of reserves.

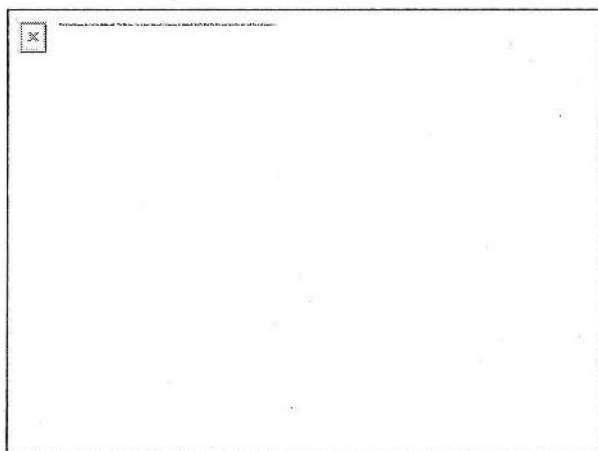
EPA has also notified U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Department of the Interior and the National Park Service.

EPA Actions: EPA OSC Andy Maguire and START are mobilizing to the scene to conduct water sampling. Investigations are under way to determine how the hexavalent chrome released, the amount of hexavalent chrome released and the extent of the release into the waterway.

The facility has minimized the amount of water it is using to essential systems only to reduce through put.

Media Interest: No media interest at this time.

EPA Region 5 OSC contact: Andy Maguire, 312-758-8672



Craig Thomas
US EPA Region 5 On-Scene Coordinator
Emergency Response Branch
77 W. Jackson Blvd., SE-5J
Chicago, IL 60604
312-886-5907 office
312-802-9637 cell

Poy, Thomas

From: Maraldo, Dean
Sent: Friday, April 14, 2017 8:30 AM
To: Henry, Timothy; Poy, Thomas; Kuefner, Patrick; Bahr, Ryan; Korleski, Christopher
Subject: Fw: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release, Portage, IN

All: I just heard from Tom Mendez that US Steel does plan to restart the plant today. May have already started. Tom expects significant press interest related to startup and City of Chicago's low level chromium detection three miles out. I believe the OSCs plan to provide an update after the 9am coordination meeting this morning.

I'm on leave today and won't be able to log in to email. EC500 is on.

=====
Dean Maraldo
Water Enforcement & Compliance Assurance Branch
U.S. EPA - Region 5
77 West Jackson Blvd. (WC-15J)
Chicago, Illinois 60604
ph: (312) 353-2098
fax: (312) 385-5394
e-mail: maraldo.dean@epa.gov
<http://www.epa.gov/enforcement/>

From: Mendez, Thomas
Sent: Thursday, April 13, 2017 7:04 PM
To: Borries, Samuel; El-Zein, Jason; Brown, Jaime; Ribordy, Michael; Mankowski, Matthew; Augustyn, James; Kelley, Jeff; Bassler, Rachel; Deamer, Eileen; dgreinke@idem.IN.gov
Cc: Eoc, Epahq; Behnke, Kristina; Beslow, Mike; Maguire, Andrew; Thomas, Craig; Lippert, Jeffrey; Cashmere, Jason; Goeks, Todd; Johnson, Mark; Karecki, Edward; Rowan, Anne; Reshkin, Karen; Maraldo, Dean; Donnelly, Peggy; Poy, Thomas; Henry, Timothy; Korleski, Christopher
Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release, Portage, IN

Update as of: 4/13/17 at 18:00 CST

Overview: Stakeholders convened for an end of day meeting to discuss the ongoing response at US Steel regarding the release of hexavalent chrome. Stakeholders present included USEPA, US Steel, IDEM, National Park Service and Indiana American Water, Portage Police, Local Councilman and a representatives for the beaches of City of Portage. Sampling continued and completed for a third day on 4/13/17.

- Sampling Data
 - Data has been coming in from earlier sampling events.
 - New EPA sampling data is expected tomorrow afternoon.
 - US Steel sampling data has been shared with stakeholders.
 - EPA is preparing data management resources to bring the data together in a more presentable form.
 - Stakeholders were aware of sampling efforts performed by the City of Chicago and a 2ppb result roughly 3 miles north of Burns Waterway.
- Current Sampling

- Boat water sampling completed and all points planned were taken.
- Shoreline and wading level sediment and water samples were completed.
- US Steel is working on plans for a plant restart which would include adding more wastewater to the treatment plant thus increasing discharge. Timelines are not known at this time but EPA, NPS, and IDEM have expressed concerns about doing this prior to reopening beaches and the water intake. **(DO NOT ADD TO PRESS OR PUBLIC RELEASES)**

EPA, State, Local, and other Federal Agency Action:

- Indiana American Water
- Indiana American Water will continue to have their water intake closed and has indicated that it will not be reopened until at least Monday. They have requested sampling to continue and are looking for three consecutive days of non-detect.
- National Park Service
- National Park Service will continue to have their beaches closed until sampling data can show that no contamination is present. Sampling at their beaches continues.

EPA Region 5 OSC contact: Andy Maguire, 312-758-8672

Thomas Mendez

Emergency Response Branch
 On Scene Coordinator
 U.S. EPA Region 5
 77 W Jackson Blvd (SE-5J)
 Chicago, Illinois 60604
 312-353-8242

Poy, Thomas

From: Maguire, Andrew
Sent: Friday, April 14, 2017 10:16 AM
To: Borries, Samuel; Mendez, Thomas
Cc: Ribordy, Michael; Maraldo, Dean; Poy, Thomas; Clark, Jacqueline; Kyte, Larry; Ballotti, Doug; Guerriero, Margaret; Kelley, Jeff; Bassler, Rachel; Deamer, Eileen; El-Zein, Jason
Subject: RE: US Steel CR+6 spill

Request submitted and we are expecting first EPA Hex Chrome results within the hour. Will share as soon as I get it. Will share USS statement when I receive it as well, should be soon.

Andy Maguire
U.S. EPA - Region 5
312-353-8782

From: Borries, Samuel
Sent: Friday, April 14, 2017 10:13 AM
To: Maguire, Andrew <maguire.andrew@epa.gov>; Mendez, Thomas <mendez.thomas@epa.gov>
Cc: Ribordy, Michael <ribordy.mike@epa.gov>; Maraldo, Dean <Maraldo.Dean@epa.gov>; Poy, Thomas <poy.thomas@epa.gov>; Clark, Jacqueline <clark.jacqueline@epa.gov>; Kyte, Larry <kyte.larry@epa.gov>; Ballotti, Doug <ballotti.douglas@epa.gov>; Guerriero, Margaret <guerriero.margaret@epa.gov>; Kelley, Jeff <kelley.jeff@epa.gov>; Bassler, Rachel <Bassler.Rachel@epa.gov>; Deamer, Eileen <deamer.eileen@epa.gov>; El-Zein, Jason <el-zein.jason@epa.gov>
Subject: US Steel CR+6 spill

Andy,
To follow up on our conversation please request from US Steel a validated data package that we can review to confirm their data results while we await the EPA lab data. I would not restart the treatment plant unless we can confirm the validity of US Steel data results or we receive the EPA sample results showing the waterway/lake is free of impact. Please work with Water Division in this review of data and startup schedule. If needed please reach out to Jackie Clark for ORCs advice in requesting the information and possibly delaying a planned startup. Call me if you have any questions.
Sam.

Poy, Thomas

From: Kuefler, Patrick
Sent: Friday, April 14, 2017 10:55 AM
To: Poy, Thomas
Subject: Us steel urgent

Tom the facility is starting up today. Please call tom Mendez the osc. 312 415-1999

Sent from my iPhone

Poy, Thomas

From: Kuefler, Patrick
Sent: Friday, April 14, 2017 11:16 AM
To: Korleski, Christopher; Poy, Thomas
Cc: Klassman, Debra; Bahr, Ryan; Maraldo, Dean; Henry, Timothy; Pierard, Kevin; Ireland, Scott; Bauer, Candice; Henry, Timothy; Vantil, Barbara
Subject: US steel discharge, anticipated plant start up today - action needed

I talked with Tom Mendez an OSC onsite. He said the facility was going to be starting up today and discharging. He asked if there were any additional discharge monitoring that we wanted. The discharge point permit requires 5 days of sampling per week with a 24 hour composite. They are going to 7 days per week now. I asked him to have them do both Cr6 and total chromium analysis. The chromium material that got in system was material (not waste that might have picked up other contaminants) and according to the MSDS did not contain other toxics. Also to let us know if they are to remove any sludge from the WWTP. I told him that I would keep EC500 on if he had any questions. Besides the frequency and the chromium analysis, they are monitoring for their permitted parameters.

He would like someone from DW to call him today and have someone available today to answer any DW questions that might come up. Tom Mendez cell is 312 415-1999

Patrick F. Kuefler
Chief
Water Enforcement &
Compliance Assurance Branch

312 353-6268 Office
312 805 7952 Mobile

Poy, Thomas

From: Bassler, Rachel
Sent: Friday, April 14, 2017 11:23 AM
To: Poy, Thomas
Cc: Maraldo, Dean; Bair, Rita; Bahr, Ryan; Kuefler, Patrick; Kelley, Jeff; Korleski, Christopher
Subject: RE: Northwest Indiana Times Question - chemical spill

Thanks Dean and Tom. I continue to receive questions on whether there is an action level for hexavalent chromium and if 2 ppb is above that level? I drafted a statement to share with interested reporters based on your responses. Thoughts?

Statement on Hexavalent Chromium at U.S. Steel chemical spill

EPA has a national drinking water standard for total chromium of 100 parts per billion. The maximum contaminant level for total chromium includes both trivalent chromium and hexavalent chromium of 100 ug/L or 100 parts per billion.

EPA does not have a hexavalent chromium standard; however, EPA is currently evaluating health effects data to determine a hexavalent chromium maximum contaminant level is needed.

Preliminary data suggests that hexavalent chromium from the spill is not present near drinking water intakes.

For additional information on chromium drinking water standards, please visit our website:

<https://www.epa.gov/dwstandardsregulations/chromium-drinking-water>

Rachel Bassler
Press Officer
U.S. EPA Region 5
bassler.rachel@epa.gov
p: 312-886-7159
c: 312-914-3393

From: Poy, Thomas
Sent: Thursday, April 13, 2017 6:51 PM
To: Bassler, Rachel <Bassler.Rachel@epa.gov>
Cc: Maraldo, Dean <Maraldo.Dean@epa.gov>; Bair, Rita <bair.rita@epa.gov>; Bahr, Ryan <bahr.ryan@epa.gov>; Kuefler, Patrick <kuefler.patrick@epa.gov>; Kelley, Jeff <kelley.jeff@epa.gov>; Korleski, Christopher <korleski.christopher@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: Northwest Indiana Times Question - chemical spill

Dean is correct. There is an MCL for Total Chromium, which includes both Trivalent Chromium and Hexavalent Chromium, of 100 ug/L or 100 ppb. Trivalent Chromium and Hexavalent Chromium readily convert to one another. There is no MCL for Hexavalent Chromium. EPA is evaluating the health effects data to determine whether the Total Chromium MCL needs to be modified or a Hexavalent Chromium MCL is needed.

Tom Poy
Chief, Ground and Drinking Water Branch
USEPA - Region 5
(312) 886-5991

On Apr 13, 2017, at 5:21 PM, Bassler, Rachel <Bassler.Rachel@epa.gov> wrote:

All – the reporter is pinging – any way we can get an answer for the first question? Does this website explain it? <https://www.epa.gov/dwstandardsregulations/chromium-drinking-water>

Question: Does EPA have an allowable limit for hexavalent chromium? Is 2,231 ug/L exceptionally high?

Rachel Bassler
Press Officer
U.S. EPA Region 5
bassler.rachel@epa.gov
p: 312-886-7159
c: 312-914-3393

From: Maraldo, Dean
Sent: Thursday, April 13, 2017 3:59 PM
To: Bassler, Rachel <Bassler.Rachel@epa.gov>
Cc: Poy, Thomas <poy.thomas@epa.gov>; Bair, Rita <bair.rita@epa.gov>; Bahr, Ryan <bahr.ryan@epa.gov>; Kuefler, Patrick <kuefler.patrick@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Northwest Indiana Times Question

Rachel: re question 1 - I believe there is a national drinking water standard for total chromium of 100 ppb. I don't believe there is a hex chromium standard. So, yes, 2,231 ug/l would exceed the primary standard for drinking water. I'll defer to our drinking water program (Tom or Rita?)

Question 2: I am not aware of any EPA enforcement at this facility. At least not for NPDES-related violations. State issued informal enforcement actions back in 2012-13. I'm cc'ing Ryan and Pat to see if they have any memory of NPDES enforcement at US Steel in Portage.

From: Bassler, Rachel
Sent: Thursday, April 13, 2017 3:34 PM
To: Maraldo, Dean <Maraldo.Dean@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Northwest Indiana Times Question

Hi Dean,

For the second question, is there a database we can point the reporter to?

Thanks,
Rachel

Rachel Bassler
Press Officer
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bassler.rachel@epa.gov
p: 312-886-7159

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From: Ribordy, Michael
Sent: Thursday, April 13, 2017 3:30 PM
To: Bassler, Rachel <Bassler.Rachel@epa.gov>
Cc: Maraldo, Dean <Maraldo.Dean@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Northwest Indiana Times Question

Rachel,
Talk with Dean Maraldo in Water. He should at least be able to help with question 1 and probably 2.

From: Bassler, Rachel
Sent: Thursday, April 13, 2017 2:30 PM
To: Ribordy, Michael <ribordy.mike@epa.gov>
Subject: Northwest Indiana Times Question

Hi Mike,

Do you know who the best person to answer these questions would be?

Does EPA have an allowable limit for hexavalent chromium? Is 2,231 ug/L exceptionally high?

Has the EPA conducted any enforcement activities in the past for U.S. Steel conducted controlled spills? I was told EPA ordered U.S. Steel to stop at some point. Can you point me to documents on EPA's website relating to this?

Poy, Thomas

From: Borries, Samuel
Sent: Friday, April 14, 2017 11:46 AM
To: Poy, Thomas
Subject: US Steel

Hi Tom,
Do we have any data from the City of Chicago DWM today?

Poy, Thomas

From: Bassler, Rachel
Sent: Friday, April 14, 2017 11:58 AM
To: Poy, Thomas
Cc: Maraldo, Dean; Bair, Rita; Bahr, Ryan; Kuefler, Patrick; Kelley, Jeff; Korleski, Christopher; Rowan, Anne
Subject: RE: Northwest Indiana Times Question - chemical spill

+ Anne, yet another reporter asking about this.

Here's the latest reporter question (Bloomberg BNA): Did I get this right? From your fact sheets: EPA's current chromium-6 drinking water standard is 100 parts per billion (0.1 mg/l). Because data collected as part of a 2008 Department of Health and Human Service's National Toxicology Program suggested chromium-6 may be a human carcinogen if ingested, EPA is currently reviewing whether its 1991 drinking water standard for total chromium, which includes chromium-6, needs to be revised. EPA guidance issued Jan. 11, 2011, recommended certain surface water systems sample their source water, plant treated water and water in the distribution system for chromium-6 on a quarterly basis.

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USEPA - Region 5
(312) 886-5991

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Question: Does EPA have an allowable limit for hexavalent chromium? Is 2,231 ug/L exceptionally high?

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Poy, Thomas

From: Rowan, Anne
Sent: Friday, April 14, 2017 12:06 PM
To: Dennis, Allison; Korleski, Christopher; Poy, Thomas; Porter, Andrea; Bair, Rita
Cc: Nowotarski, Allison
Subject: Bloomberg + other media need clarification re: drinking water standard for chromium
Importance: High

Please help us (Allison and me) answer these questions asap.

From: Bassler, Rachel
Sent: Friday, April 14, 2017 11:58 AM
To: Poy, Thomas <poy.thomas@epa.gov>
Cc: Maraldo, Dean <Maraldo.Dean@epa.gov>; Bair, Rita <bair.rita@epa.gov>; Bahr, Ryan <bahr.ryan@epa.gov>; Kuefler, Patrick <kuefler.patrick@epa.gov>; Kelley, Jeff <kelley.jeff@epa.gov>; Korleski, Christopher <korleski.christopher@epa.gov>; Rowan, Anne <rowan.anne@epa.gov>
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U.S. EPA Region 5
bassler.rachel@epa.gov
p: 312-886-7159
c: 312-914-3393

From: Maraldo, Dean
Sent: Thursday, April 13, 2017 3:59 PM
To: Bassler, Rachel <Bassler.Rachel@epa.gov>
Cc: Poy, Thomas <poy.thomas@epa.gov>; Bair, Rita <bair.rita@epa.gov>; Bahr, Ryan <bahr.ryan@epa.gov>; Kuefler, Patrick <kuefler.patrick@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Northwest Indiana Times Question

Rachel: re question 1 - I believe there is a national drinking water standard for total chromium of 100 ppb. I don't believe there is a hex chromium standard. So, yes, 2,231 ug/l would exceed the primary standard for drinking water. I'll defer to our drinking water program (Tom or Rita?)

Question 2: I am not aware of any EPA enforcement at this facility. At least not for NPDES-related violations. State issued informal enforcement actions back in 2012-13. I'm cc'ing Ryan and Pat to see if they have any memory of NPDES enforcement at US Steel in Portage.

From: Bassler, Rachel
Sent: Thursday, April 13, 2017 3:34 PM
To: Maraldo, Dean <Maraldo.Dean@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Northwest Indiana Times Question

Hi Dean,

For the second question, is there a database we can point the reporter to?

Thanks,
Rachel

Rachel Bassler
Press Officer
U.S. EPA Region 5
bassler.rachel@epa.gov
p: 312-886-7159
c: 312-914-3393

From: Ribordy, Michael
Sent: Thursday, April 13, 2017 3:30 PM
To: Bassler, Rachel <Bassler.Rachel@epa.gov>
Cc: Maraldo, Dean <Maraldo.Dean@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Northwest Indiana Times Question

Rachel,
Talk with Dean Maraldo in Water. He should at least be able to help with question 1 and probably 2.

From: Bassler, Rachel
Sent: Thursday, April 13, 2017 2:30 PM
To: Ribordy, Michael <ribordy.mike@epa.gov>
Subject: Northwest Indiana Times Question

Hi Mike,

Do you know who the best person to answer these questions would be?

Does EPA have an allowable limit for hexavalent chromium? Is 2,231 ug/L exceptionally high?

Has the EPA conducted any enforcement activities in the past for U.S. Steel conducted controlled spills? I was told EPA ordered U.S. Steel to stop at some point. Can you point me to documents on EPA's website relating to this?

Poy, Thomas

From: Maguire, Andrew
Sent: Friday, April 14, 2017 12:15 PM
To: Borries, Samuel; Mendez, Thomas
Cc: Ribordy, Michael; Maraldo, Dean; Poy, Thomas; Clark, Jacqueline; Kyte, Larry; Ballotti, Doug; Guerriero, Margaret; Kelley, Jeff; Bassler, Rachel; Deamer, Eileen; El-Zein, Jason
Subject: RE: US Steel CR+6 spill
Attachments: 17040415(TetraTech)Rev0_Preliminary.pdf

All,

We've received our first set of data from the lab. Attached is the lab report but I'll summarize:

Samples taken by EPA on 4/12/17 in Burns Waterway and Lake Michigan, including Indiana American Water's Ogden Dunes intake, does not indicate any hexavalent chromium impacts to either waterway. All results were below the Method Detection Limit of 1 parts per billion.

We're still awaiting beach samples and results for total

Andy Maguire
U.S. EPA - Region 5
312-353-8782

From: Borries, Samuel
Sent: Friday, April 14, 2017 10:13 AM
To: Maguire, Andrew <maguire.andrew@epa.gov>; Mendez, Thomas <mendez.thomas@epa.gov>
Cc: Ribordy, Michael <ribordy.mike@epa.gov>; Maraldo, Dean <Maraldo.Dean@epa.gov>; Poy, Thomas <poy.thomas@epa.gov>; Clark, Jacqueline <clark.jacqueline@epa.gov>; Kyte, Larry <kyte.larry@epa.gov>; Ballotti, Doug <ballotti.douglas@epa.gov>; Guerriero, Margaret <guerriero.margaret@epa.gov>; Kelley, Jeff <kelley.jeff@epa.gov>; Bassler, Rachel <Bassler.Rachel@epa.gov>; Deamer, Eileen <deamer.eileen@epa.gov>; El-Zein, Jason <el-zein.jason@epa.gov>
Subject: US Steel CR+6 spill

Andy,
To follow up on our conversation please request from US Steel a validated data package that we can review to confirm their data results while we await the EPA lab data. I would not restart the treatment plant unless we can confirm the validity of US Steel data results or we receive the EPA sample results showing the waterway/lake is free of impact. Please work with Water Division in this review of data and startup schedule. If needed please reach out to Jackie Clark for ORCs advice in requesting the information and possibly delaying a planned startup. Call me if you have any questions.
Sam.

Poy, Thomas

From: Poy, Thomas
Sent: Friday, April 14, 2017 12:34 PM
To: Bassler, Rachel
Cc: Maraldo, Dean; Bair, Rita; Bahr, Ryan; Kuefler, Patrick; Kelley, Jeff; Korleski, Christopher
Subject: RE: Northwest Indiana Times Question - chemical spill

Rachel: I made a couple of minor edits below. The second sentence repeated info from the first.

Tom

Tom Poy
Chief, Ground Water and Drinking Water Branch
USEPA - Region 5
(312) 886-5991

From: Bassler, Rachel
Sent: Friday, April 14, 2017 11:23 AM
To: Poy, Thomas <poy.thomas@epa.gov>
Cc: Maraldo, Dean <Maraldo.Dean@epa.gov>; Bair, Rita <bair.rita@epa.gov>; Bahr, Ryan <bahr.ryan@epa.gov>; Kuefler, Patrick <kuefler.patrick@epa.gov>; Kelley, Jeff <kelley.jeff@epa.gov>; Korleski, Christopher <korleski.christopher@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Northwest Indiana Times Question - chemical spill

Thanks Dean and Tom. I continue to receive questions on whether there is an action level for hexavalent chromium and if 2 ppb is above that level? I drafted a statement to share with interested reporters based on your responses. Thoughts?

Statement on Hexavalent Chromium at U.S. Steel chemical spill

EPA has a national drinking water standard (also known as a Maximum Contaminant Level) for Total Chromium of 100 ug/L (parts per billion). Total Chromium includes both trivalent chromium and hexavalent chromium.

EPA does not have a separate hexavalent chromium standard; however, EPA is currently evaluating health effects data to determine if a hexavalent chromium Maximum Contaminant Level is needed.

Preliminary data suggests that hexavalent chromium from the spill is not present near drinking water intakes.

For additional information on chromium drinking water standards, please visit our website:
<https://www.epa.gov/dwstandardsregulations/chromium-drinking-water>

Rachel Bassler
Press Officer
U.S. EPA Region 5
bassler.rachel@epa.gov
p: 312-886-7159
c: 312-914-3393

From: Poy, Thomas
Sent: Thursday, April 13, 2017 6:51 PM

To: Bassler, Rachel <Bassler.Rachel@epa.gov>

Cc: Maraldo, Dean <Maraldo.Dean@epa.gov>; Bair, Rita <bair.rita@epa.gov>; Bahr, Ryan <bahr.ryan@epa.gov>; Kuefler, Patrick <kuefler.patrick@epa.gov>; Kelley, Jeff <kelley.jeff@epa.gov>; Korleski, Christopher <korleski.christopher@epa.gov>

Subject: Re: Northwest Indiana Times Question - chemical spill

Dean is correct. There is an MCL for Total Chromium, which includes both Trivalent Chromium and Hexavalent Chromium, of 100 ug/L or 100 ppb. Trivalent Chromium and Hexavalent Chromium readily convert to one another. There is no MCL for Hexavalent Chromium. EPA is evaluating the health effects data to determine whether the Total Chromium MCL needs to be modified or a Hexavalent Chromium MCL is needed.

Tom Poy

Chief, Ground and Drinking Water Branch

USEPA - Region 5

(312) 886-5991

On Apr 13, 2017, at 5:21 PM, Bassler, Rachel <Bassler.Rachel@epa.gov> wrote:

All – the reporter is pinging – any way we can get an answer for the first question? Does this website explain it? <https://www.epa.gov/dwstandardsregulations/chromium-drinking-water>

Question: Does EPA have an allowable limit for hexavalent chromium? Is 2,231 ug/L exceptionally high?

Rachel Bassler
Press Officer
U.S. EPA Region 5
bassler.rachel@epa.gov
p: 312-886-7159
c: 312-914-3393

From: Maraldo, Dean

Sent: Thursday, April 13, 2017 3:59 PM

To: Bassler, Rachel <Bassler.Rachel@epa.gov>

Cc: Poy, Thomas <poy.thomas@epa.gov>; Bair, Rita <bair.rita@epa.gov>; Bahr, Ryan <bahr.ryan@epa.gov>; Kuefler, Patrick <kuefler.patrick@epa.gov>

Subject: RE: Northwest Indiana Times Question

Rachel: re question 1 - I believe there is a national drinking water standard for total chromium of 100 ppb. I don't believe there is a hex chromium standard. So, yes, 2,231 ug/l would exceed the primary standard for drinking water. I'll defer to our drinking water program (Tom or Rita?)

Question 2: I am not aware of any EPA enforcement at this facility. At least not for NPDES-related violations. State issued informal enforcement actions back in 2012-13. I'm cc'ing Ryan and Pat to see if they have any memory of NPDES enforcement at US Steel in Portage.

From: Bassler, Rachel
Sent: Thursday, April 13, 2017 3:34 PM
To: Maraldo, Dean <Maraldo.Dean@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Northwest Indiana Times Question

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For the second question, is there a database we can point the reporter to?

Thanks,
Rachel

Rachel Bassler
Press Officer
U.S. EPA Region 5
bassler.rachel@epa.gov
p: 312-886-7159
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From: Ribordy, Michael
Sent: Thursday, April 13, 2017 3:30 PM
To: Bassler, Rachel <Bassler.Rachel@epa.gov>
Cc: Maraldo, Dean <Maraldo.Dean@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Northwest Indiana Times Question

Rachel,
Talk with Dean Maraldo in Water. He should at least be able to help with question 1 and probably 2.

From: Bassler, Rachel
Sent: Thursday, April 13, 2017 2:30 PM
To: Ribordy, Michael <ribordy.mike@epa.gov>
Subject: Northwest Indiana Times Question

Hi Mike,

Do you know who the best person to answer these questions would be?

Does EPA have an allowable limit for hexavalent chromium? Is 2,231 ug/L exceptionally high?

Has the EPA conducted any enforcement activities in the past for U.S. Steel conducted controlled spills? I was told EPA ordered U.S. Steel to stop at some point. Can you point me to documents on EPA's website relating to this?

Poy, Thomas

From: Poy, Thomas
Sent: Friday, April 14, 2017 12:36 PM
To: Borries, Samuel
Subject: RE: US Steel

Hey Sam: I have not gotten anything from them. I will send it to you and Tom Mendez when I get it.

Tom

Tom Poy
Chief, Ground Water and Drinking Water Branch
USEPA - Region 5
(312) 886-5991

From: Borries, Samuel
Sent: Friday, April 14, 2017 11:46 AM
To: Poy, Thomas <poy.thomas@epa.gov>
Subject: US Steel

Hi Tom,
Do we have any data from the City of Chicago DWM today?

Poy, Thomas

From: Borries, Samuel
Sent: Friday, April 14, 2017 1:01 PM
To: Poy, Thomas
Subject: Re: US Steel

Thx

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 14, 2017, at 12:36 PM, Poy, Thomas <poy.thomas@epa.gov> wrote:

Hey Sam: I have not gotten anything from them. I will send it to you and Tom Mendez when I get it.

Tom

Tom Poy
Chief, Ground Water and Drinking Water Branch
USEPA - Region 5
(312) 886-5991

From: Borries, Samuel
Sent: Friday, April 14, 2017 11:46 AM
To: Poy, Thomas <poy.thomas@epa.gov>
Subject: US Steel

Hi Tom,
Do we have any data from the City of Chicago DWM today?

Poy, Thomas

From: Stark, Alan <Alan.Stark@cityofchicago.org>
Sent: Friday, April 14, 2017 1:48 PM
To: Poy, Thomas; Ames, Mort; Murphy, Barrett; Hernandez-Tomlin, Julie; Litherland, Gary; Caminer, Irene; Putz, Andrea; dave McMillan; Wheat, Christopher; McMillan, Dave; Kelly, Mike; Schwer, Patrick; Skiadopoulos, Frank; O'Malley, Mark; Salinas, Eduardo; Litherland, Gary; Saleh, Hassen; Bresnahan, William
Cc: Mary Hollingsworth; Korleski, Christopher; feighnerb@michigan.gov
Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN
Attachments: removed.txt; SWPP 68th Crib 041317 Cr+.xls; US Steel Lake Survey East of SWPP 68th Crib 041317 Cr+.xls; Cr6+ Lk Survey 041317.pdf

All

Attached are the results from yesterday 4/13/17

- All Samples collected at SWPP from SWPP's 68th Street Crib Complex are within normal range.
- The Lake Survey (see attached) consisted of 22 sample locations and 27 samples. Five samples with the suffix of D indicates a Dip control sample to validate pumped sample.
- Location 1G and 1GD, yesterday showed results an order of magnitude higher than all other results at 2.0 and 1.6 respectively. This location is one of the nearest sampling locations (about a mile) near the spill. BUT yesterday's results were lower at this location at 0.6 and 0.62 respectively.
- Other grid locations showed elevated results below 0.7; thereby, creating a contaminant plume from the point source at 1G.
- The plume appeared to move northwest as predicted following the lake currents from east to west
- Appears the concentration is being diluted

Today 4/14/17

- IEPA was notified by phone this morning
- It was determined to again expand the grid based Lake Survey sampling to verify and the plume to make sure the plume is diluting and continue sampling SWPP's Crib every two hours.
- NOAA Lake Michigan flow current model shows THE CURRENT IS EAST TO WEST.
- TESTING WILL CONTINUE

Thanks
Alan

From: Stark, Alan
Sent: Thursday, April 13, 2017 1:22 PM
To: 'Poy, Thomas'; Ames, Mort; Murphy, Barrett; Hernandez-Tomlin, Julie; Litherland, Gary; Caminer, Irene; Putz, Andrea; 'dave McMillan'; Wheat, Christopher; 'McMillan, Dave'; Kelly, Mike; Schwer, Patrick; Skiadopoulos, Frank; O'Malley, Mark; Salinas, Eduardo; Litherland, Gary; Saleh, Hassen; Bresnahan, William
Cc: 'Mary Hollingsworth'; 'Korleski, Christopher'; 'feighnerb@michigan.gov'
Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

All

Attached are the results from yesterday

- All Samples collected at SWPP from SWPP's 68th Street Crib Complex are within normal range.
- The Lake Survey (see attached) consisted of 16 sample locations and 19 samples. Three samples with the suffix of D indicates a Dip control sample to validate pumped sample.
- Location 1G and 1GD show results an order of magnitude higher than all other results at 2.0 and 1.6 respectively. This location is one of the nearest sampling locations (about a mile) near the spill.

Today

- IEPA and USEPA were notified by phone this morning
- It was determined to expand the grid based Lake Survey sampling to verify and follow the possible plume and continue sampling SWPP's Crib every two hours.
- NOAA Lake Michigan flow current model shows the CURRENT HAS REVERSED from the previous two days of west to east, NOW THE CURRENT IS EAST TO WEST.
- THEREFORE CHANGE IN DIRECTION OF PLUME TO THE WEST
- TESTING WILL CONTINUE

Thanks

Alan

Alan,

Attached are 2 excel spreadsheets with all of the results from samples received yesterday. Final reports will hopefully be sent out later today.

If you need anything else, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Nathan Trowbridge
Client Services Manager

Eurofins Eaton Analytical, Inc.
110 South Hill Street, South Bend, IN 46617
Phone: 574 472 5528
Mobile: 574 302 2590

Email: NathanTrowbridge@eurofinsUS.com
Website: <http://www.EurofinsUS.com/Eaton>

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From: Stark, Alan

Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2017 6:04 PM

To: 'Poy, Thomas'; Ames, Mort; Murphy, Barrett; Hernandez-Tomlin, Julie; Litherland, Gary; Caminer, Irene; Putz, Andrea; 'dave McMillan'; Wheat, Christopher; 'McMillan, Dave'; Kelly, Mike; Schwer, Patrick; Skiadopoulos, Frank; O'Malley, Mark; Salinas, Eduardo; Litherland, Gary; Saleh, Hassen; Bresnahan, William

Cc: 'Mary Hollingsworth'; 'Korleski, Christopher'; 'feighnerb@michigan.gov'

Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

See below highlighted, results from first ten samples (excel sheet) in agreement with our routine samples collected quarterly. Remaining results from Crib lake survey being delivered to Eurofins (as of this email) to follow. Also attached GIS plot of lake grid survey, results to follow. As stated earlier further sampling will be based on final results.

Thanks
Alan

From: Nathan Trowbridge [<mailto:NathanTrowbridge@eurofinsUS.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2017 5:30 PM
To: Stark, Alan
Subject: RE: COC Sheets

Thanks Alan,

I've attached data for the 1st 10 samples that were analyzed. The next 4, plus the ones coming in tonight should be ready by tomorrow morning. The data looks fairly steady each hour and what I saw of the next 4 was similar. I'll let you know more as soon as I have data.

If you need anything else, please let me know. I'll be here until all of the new samples are on the instrument. I'll be at home checking email after that.

Thanks,

Nathan Trowbridge

Phone: +1 574 472 5528
Mobile: +1 574 302 2590
Email: NathanTrowbridge@EurofinsUS.com

From: Stark, Alan [<mailto:Alan.Stark@cityofchicago.org>]
Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2017 6:09 PM
To: Nathan Trowbridge
Subject: COC Sheets

See attached completed COC from the morning and one from the Lake Survey that is on the way to you

Alan

This e-mail, and any attachments thereto, is intended only for use by the addressee(s) named herein and may contain legally privileged and/or confidential information. If you are not the intended recipient of this e-mail (or the person responsible for delivering this document to the intended recipient), you are hereby notified that any dissemination, distribution, printing or copying of this e-mail, and any attachment thereto, is strictly prohibited. If you have received this e-mail in error, please respond to the individual sending the message, and permanently delete the original and any copy of any e-mail and printout thereof.

Notify us [here](#) to report this email as spam.

From: Stark, Alan
Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2017 12:23 PM
To: 'Poy, Thomas'; Ames, Mort; Murphy, Barrett; Hernandez-Tomlin, Julie; Litherland, Gary; Caminer, Irene; Putz, Andrea; dave McMillan; Wheat, Christopher; McMillan, Dave; Kelly, Mike; Schwer, Patrick; Skiadopoulos, Frank; O'Malley, Mark; Salinas, Eduardo; Litherland, Gary
Cc: Mary Hollingsworth; Korleski, Christopher; feighnerb@michigan.gov
Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

Thank you!

From: Poy, Thomas [<mailto:poy.thomas@epa.gov>]
Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2017 12:10 PM
To: Stark, Alan; Ames, Mort; Murphy, Barrett; Hernandez-Tomlin, Julie; Litherland, Gary; Caminer, Irene; Putz, Andrea; dave McMillan; Wheat, Christopher; McMillan, Dave; Kelly, Mike; Schwer, Patrick; Skiadopoulos, Frank; O'Malley, Mark; Salinas, Eduardo; Litherland, Gary
Cc: Mary Hollingsworth; Korleski, Christopher; feighnerb@michigan.gov
Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

I believe the source of the active release has been stopped and it is just residual in the outfall now.

Tom

Tom Poy
Chief, Ground Water and Drinking Water Branch
USEPA - Region 5
(312) 886-5991

From: Stark, Alan [<mailto:Alan.Stark@cityofchicago.org>]
Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2017 10:37 AM
To: Poy, Thomas <poy.thomas@epa.gov>; Ames, Mort <Mort.Ames@cityofchicago.org>; Murphy, Barrett <Barrett.Murphy@cityofchicago.org>; Hernandez-Tomlin, Julie <Julie.HernandezTomlin@cityofchicago.org>; Litherland, Gary <Gary.Litherland@cityofchicago.org>; Caminer, Irene <Irene.Caminer@cityofchicago.org>; Putz, Andrea <Andrea.Putz@cityofchicago.org>; dave McMillan <dave.mcmillan@illinois.gov>; Wheat, Christopher <Christopher.Wheat@cityofchicago.org>; McMillan, Dave <DAVE.MCMILLAN@Illinois.gov>; Kelly, Mike <Mike.Kelly@cityofchicago.org>; Schwer, Patrick <Patrick.Schwer@cityofchicago.org>; Skiadopoulos, Frank <Frank.Skiadopoulos@cityofchicago.org>; O'Malley, Mark <Mark.OMalley@cityofchicago.org>; Salinas, Eduardo <Eduardo.Salinas@cityofchicago.org>; Litherland, Gary <Gary.Litherland@cityofchicago.org>
Cc: Mary Hollingsworth <MHolling@idem.IN.gov>; Korleski, Christopher <korleski.christopher@epa.gov>; feighnerb@michigan.gov
Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

Have they stopped the outfall?

From: Poy, Thomas [<mailto:poy.thomas@epa.gov>]
Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2017 10:35 AM
To: Stark, Alan; Ames, Mort; Murphy, Barrett; Hernandez-Tomlin, Julie; Litherland, Gary; Caminer, Irene; Putz, Andrea; dave McMillan; Wheat, Christopher; McMillan, Dave; Kelly, Mike; Schwer, Patrick; Skiadopoulos, Frank; O'Malley, Mark; Salinas, Eduardo; Litherland, Gary
Cc: Mary Hollingsworth; Korleski, Christopher; feighnerb@michigan.gov
Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

Hi Alan: No update on quantity or concentration. The sampling from yesterday was indicating that the chromium had not reached Lake Michigan. More sampling is going to be done today.

Tom

Tom Poy
Chief, Ground Water and Drinking Water Branch
USEPA - Region 5
(312) 886-5991

From: Stark, Alan [mailto:Alan.Stark@cityofchicago.org]
Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2017 10:08 AM
To: Ames, Mort <Mort.Ames@cityofchicago.org>; Murphy, Barrett <Barrett.Murphy@cityofchicago.org>; Hernandez-Tomlin, Julie <Julie.HernandezTomlin@cityofchicago.org>; Litherland, Gary <Gary.Litherland@cityofchicago.org>; Caminer, Irene <Irene.Caminer@cityofchicago.org>; Putz, Andrea <Andrea.Putz@cityofchicago.org>; Poy, Thomas <poy.thomas@epa.gov>; dave McMillan <dave.mcmillan@illinois.gov>; Wheat, Christopher <Christopher.Wheat@cityofchicago.org>; McMillan, Dave <DAVE.MCMILLAN@Illinois.gov>; Kelly, Mike <Mike.Kelly@cityofchicago.org>; Schwer, Patrick <Patrick.Schwer@cityofchicago.org>; Skiadopoulos, Frank <Frank.Skiadopoulos@cityofchicago.org>; O'Malley, Mark <Mark.OMalley@cityofchicago.org>; Salinas, Eduardo <Eduardo.Salinas@cityofchicago.org>; Litherland, Gary <Gary.Litherland@cityofchicago.org>
Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

Hi Tom,

Any updates, release quantity and concentration?

Lake currents still counter clockwise. Hourly samples from SWPP's 68th Street Crib complex in route to Eurofins in South Bend. Lake Survey underway, samples will be driven to Eurofins once they boat gets back. Results will be forwarded as I get them. Crib sampling now every two hours lab results will dictated further sampling and possible mitigation.

Thanks
Alan

From: Stark, Alan
Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2017 1:44 AM
To: Ames, Mort; Murphy, Barrett; Hernandez-Tomlin, Julie; Litherland, Gary; Caminer, Irene; Putz, Andrea; Poy, Thomas; dave McMillan; Wheat, Christopher
Subject: Fwd: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

Tom
Thank you for the update.
We are collecting hourly at SWPP crib, driving samples to Euro fins this morning, results later afternoon. Lake survey in morning, drive samples in afternoon, results late night. I will forward results to you and Dave as I get them.

Thanks
Alan

----- Original message -----

From: "Poy, Thomas" <poy.thomas@epa.gov>

Date: 4/11/17 11:40 PM (GMT-06:00)

To: "Stark, Alan" <Alan.Stark@cityofchicago.org>, Dave McMillan <dave.mcmillan@illinois.gov>, Mary Hollingsworth <MHollings@idem.IN.gov>, feighnerb@michigan.gov

Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

The last that I heard, they were still investigating the cause and volume of the release.

A set of samples were collected before dark. Samples were taken upstream of the outfall, at the outfall, and downstream of the outfall. Two samples were also taken at the nearby Indiana American Water intake and wet well. A subset of samples, including the samples taken at the water intake, were sent to an on-site lab for rapid turnaround. The highest concentration of in the samples was detected at the outfall was 949 ppb. The samples taken at the American Water intake and wet well were non-detects for total chromium. The rest of the samples will be sent off to a lab in Valparaiso later tonight to be run for hexavalent chromium. Overnight, samples will be taken at the outfall every 2 hours and another full round of samples will be taken tomorrow morning

Tom Poy

Chief, Ground Water and Drinking Water Branch

USEPA - Region 5

(312) 886-5991

From: Stark, Alan [mailto:Alan.Stark@cityofchicago.org]

Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 8:02 PM

To: Poy, Thomas <poy.thomas@epa.gov>

Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

Any updates?

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

----- Original message -----

From: "Poy, Thomas" <poy.thomas@epa.gov>

Date: 4/11/17 2:53 PM (GMT-06:00)

To: "Stark, Alan" <Alan.Stark@cityofchicago.org>

Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

Alan: Thanks for the information. I'm sharing what you're doing with the OSCs at the site.

Tom

Tom Poy

Chief, Ground Water and Drinking Water Branch

USEPA - Region 5

(312) 886-5991

From: Stark, Alan [<mailto:Alan.Stark@cityofchicago.org>]
Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 2:19 PM
To: McMillan, Dave <DAVE.MCMILLAN@Illinois.gov>; Poy, Thomas <poy.thomas@epa.gov>
Cc: Murphy, Barrett <Barrett.Murphy@cityofchicago.org>; Hernandez-Tomlin, Julie <Julie.HernandezTomlin@cityofchicago.org>; Putz, Andrea <Andrea.Putz@cityofchicago.org>; Kelly, Mike <Mike.Kelly@cityofchicago.org>; Schwer, Patrick <Patrick.Schwer@cityofchicago.org>; O'Malley, Mark <Mark.O'Malley@cityofchicago.org>; Salinas, Eduardo <Eduardo.Salinas@cityofchicago.org>; Skiadopoulos, Frank <Frank.Skiadopoulos@cityofchicago.org>; Litherland, Gary <Gary.Litherland@cityofchicago.org>; Caminer, Irene <Irene.Caminer@cityofchicago.org>
Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

Dave and Tom

Per our discussion, NOAA currents showing counter clockwise current in Lake Michigan and winds out of the west. For precaution we will sample for Cr6+ at SWPP Crib hourly once we get the sample bottles from the lab. Tomorrow, out of an abundance of caution, we will do a grid sampling of Lake Michigan, quarter mile off shore near Gary Indiana for Cr6+. Any questions please call me anytime 312-617-4233.

Thanks
Alan

From: McMillan, Dave [<mailto:DAVE.MCMILLAN@Illinois.gov>]
Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 1:53 PM
To: Stark, Alan
Subject: FW: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

Additional information per our discussion.

From: Lauder, Roger
Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 1:50 PM
To: McMillan, Dave <DAVE.MCMILLAN@Illinois.gov>; Cook, David <DAVID.COOK@Illinois.gov>
Subject: FW: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

FYI

From: Borries, Samuel [<mailto:borries.samuel@epa.gov>]
Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 1:48 PM
To: Lauder, Roger
Cc: El-Zein, Jason
Subject: [External] FW: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

Roger,
Here is the ER notification report with the current information.

From: Thomas, Craig
Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 1:46 PM
To: R5 ER Notification List <R5_ER_Notification_List@epa.gov>
Cc: Maguire, Andrew <maguire.andrew@epa.gov>; Beslow, Mike <beslow.mike@epa.gov>; Lippert, Jeffrey <lippert.jeffrey@epa.gov>; Behnke, Kristina <behnke.kristina@epa.gov>; Mendez, Thomas <mendez.thomas@epa.gov>
Subject: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

ER Notification #1 (Initial) – U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release, Portage, IN

Region 5 ER Notification #1 (Initial): NRC# 1175399, U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release, Portage, IN

Report as of: 09/23/16 at 13:45 CDT

Overview: On 4/11/17 at approximately 09:30 central time, U.S Steel Corporation discovered a green discoloration in the water near an outfall at their facility in Portage, IN, discharging into Burns Waterway (aka Burns Ditch). U.S. Steel reported this to the National Response Center (NRC #1175399). OSC Thomas contacted the reporting party regarding this incident, and was told the facility was conducting an investigation to determine what it was. OSC Thomas then contacted OSCs Beslow and Mendez, who were nearby, to investigate as well.

Upon arriving at the scene, OSCs Beslow and Mendez met with U.S Steel's environmental manager and were told that the facility had determined the material was hexavalent chrome. This information was immediately shared with United States Coast Guard personnel, who were also responding.

State, Local, and other Federal Agency Action: The USCG, and IDEM have arrived on scene. EPA has notified local water intakes in Gary, East Chicago, and Ogden Dunes. Indiana American Water in Ogden Dunes has shut down their water intake and has approximately 4 hours of reserves.

EPA has also notified U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Department of the Interior and the National Park Service.

EPA Actions: EPA OSC Andy Maguire and START are mobilizing to the scene to conduct water sampling. Investigations are under way to determine how the hexavalent chrome released, the amount of hexavalent chrome released and the extent of the release into the waterway.

The facility has minimized the amount of water it is using to essential systems only to reduce through put.

Media Interest: No media interest at this time.

EPA Region 5 OSC contact: Andy Maguire, 312-758-8672



Craig Thomas

US EPA Region 5 On-Scene Coordinator
Emergency Response Branch
77 W. Jackson Blvd., SE-5J
Chicago, IL 60604
312-886-5907 office
312-802-9637 cell



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Poy, Thomas

From: Bassler, Rachel
Sent: Friday, April 14, 2017 2:12 PM
To: Borries, Samuel; Maguire, Andrew; Mendez, Thomas; Leon, Heriberto; Cannon, Philippa; Behnke, Kristina; Deamer, Eileen; Ballotti, Doug; Guerriero, Margaret; Newton, Cheryl; Rowan, Anne; Kelley, Jeff; Poy, Thomas
Subject: EPA TO OVERSEE PHASED RESTART OF U.S. STEEL PLANT; DATA SHOW NO CHROMIUM IN WATER

EPA TO OVERSEE PHASED RESTART OF U.S. STEEL PLANT; DATA SHOW NO CHROMIUM IN WATER

Preliminary results of water samples collected by EPA from Burns Waterway and Lake Michigan, including Indiana American Water's intake, on April 12, do not indicate hexavalent chromium impacts in either water body. All results were below EPA's method detection limit of 1 part per billion. EPA will post preliminary and final data to a map viewer on its website as soon as possible.

EPA will provide oversight today as U.S. Steel restarts its operations, which have been idle for three days after a malfunction caused the discharge of hexavalent chromium into Burns Waterway within 100 yards of Lake Michigan. EPA recommended that the company delay its restart until the Agency had sufficient data to show there were no lingering effects to the waterway or Lake Michigan.

EPA and its partner agencies – including the National Park Service – have reviewed the U.S. Steel's operations restart plan. EPA will observe the startup process and will closely monitor the outfall discharge.

If this process goes smoothly, the company plans to gradually restart its plating lines this weekend, while neighboring beaches and water intakes remain closed.

More information about EPA's response to the spill is online at <https://response.epa.gov/USSteelHexavalentChrome>.

Additional information about hexavalent chromium

EPA has a national drinking water standard (also known as a Maximum Contaminant Level) for Total Chromium of 100 ug/L (parts per billion). Total Chromium includes both trivalent chromium and hexavalent chromium.

EPA does not have a separate hexavalent chromium standard; however, EPA is currently evaluating health effects data to determine if a hexavalent chromium Maximum Contaminant Level is needed.

For additional information on chromium drinking water standards, please visit our website: <https://www.epa.gov/dwstandardsregulations/chromium-drinking-water>

###

Poy, Thomas

From: Poy, Thomas
Sent: Friday, April 14, 2017 2:29 PM
To: Borries, Samuel; Mendez, Thomas
Cc: Korleski, Christopher; Timothy Henry - EPA
Subject: FW: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN
Attachments: removed.txt; SWPP 68th Crib 041317 Cr+.xls; US Steel Lake Survey East of SWPP 68th Crib 041317 Cr+.xls; Cr6+ Lk Survey 041317.pdf

Sam/Tom: Here are Chicago's sampling results from yesterday. The current changed yesterday to a westerly direction as verified by slight increases in concentrations on the grid to the northwest. The previous day's high values at location 1G and 1 GD are a third lower.

Chicago is going out again today to sample and will be expanding the grid.

Tom

Tom Poy
Chief, Ground Water and Drinking Water Branch
USEPA - Region 5
(312) 886-5991

From: Stark, Alan [mailto:Alan.Stark@cityofchicago.org]
Sent: Friday, April 14, 2017 1:48 PM
To: Poy, Thomas <poy.thomas@epa.gov>; Ames, Mort <Mort.Ames@cityofchicago.org>; Murphy, Barrett <Barrett.Murphy@cityofchicago.org>; Hernandez-Tomlin, Julie <Julie.HernandezTomlin@cityofchicago.org>; Litherland, Gary <Gary.Litherland@cityofchicago.org>; Caminer, Irene <Irene.Caminer@cityofchicago.org>; Putz, Andrea <Andrea.Putz@cityofchicago.org>; dave McMillan <dave.mcmillan@illinois.gov>; Wheat, Christopher <Christopher.Wheat@cityofchicago.org>; McMillan, Dave <DAVE.MCMILLAN@Illinois.gov>; Kelly, Mike <Mike.Kelly@cityofchicago.org>; Schwer, Patrick <Patrick.Schwer@cityofchicago.org>; Skiadopoulos, Frank <Frank.Skiadopoulos@cityofchicago.org>; O'Malley, Mark <Mark.OMalley@cityofchicago.org>; Salinas, Eduardo <Eduardo.Salinas@cityofchicago.org>; Litherland, Gary <Gary.Litherland@cityofchicago.org>; Saleh, Hassen <Hassen.Saleh@cityofchicago.org>; Bresnahan, William <William.Bresnahan@cityofchicago.org>
Cc: Mary Hollingsworth <MHolling@idem.IN.gov>; Korleski, Christopher <korleski.christopher@epa.gov>; feighnerb@michigan.gov
Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

All

Attached are the results from yesterday 4/13/17

- All Samples collected at SWPP from SWPP's 68th Street Crib Complex are within normal range.
- The Lake Survey (see attached) consisted of 22 sample locations and 27 samples. Five samples with the suffix of D indicates a Dip control sample to validate pumped sample.
- Location 1G and 1GD, yesterday showed results an order of magnitude higher than all other results at 2.0 and 1.6 respectively. This location is one of the nearest sampling locations (about a mile) near the spill. BUT yesterday's results were lower at this location at 0.6 and 0.62 respectively.
- Other grid locations showed elevated results below 0.7; thereby, creating a contaminant plume from the point source at 1G.
- The plume appeared to move northwest as predicted following the lake currents from east to west
- Appears the concentration is being diluted

Today 4/14/17

- IEPA was notified by phone this morning
- It was determined to again expand the grid based Lake Survey sampling to verify and the plume to make sure the plume is diluting and continue sampling SWPP's Crib every two hours.
- NOAA Lake Michigan flow current model shows THE CURRENT IS EAST TO WEST.
- TESTING WILL CONTINUE

Thanks
Alan

From: Stark, Alan

Sent: Thursday, April 13, 2017 1:22 PM

To: 'Poy, Thomas'; Ames, Mort; Murphy, Barrett; Hernandez-Tomlin, Julie; Litherland, Gary; Caminer, Irene; Putz, Andrea; 'dave McMillan'; Wheat, Christopher; 'McMillan, Dave'; Kelly, Mike; Schwer, Patrick; Skiadopoulos, Frank; O'Malley, Mark; Salinas, Eduardo; Litherland, Gary; Saleh, Hassen; Bresnahan, William

Cc: 'Mary Hollingsworth'; 'Korleski, Christopher'; 'feighnerb@michigan.gov'

Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

All

Attached are the results from yesterday

- All Samples collected at SWPP from SWPP's 68th Street Crib Complex are within normal range.
- The Lake Survey (see attached) consisted of 16 sample locations and 19 samples. Three samples with the suffix of D indicates a Dip control sample to validate pumped sample.
- Location 1G and 1GD show results an order of magnitude higher than all other results at 2.0 and 1.6 respectively. This location is one of the nearest sampling locations (about a mile) near the spill.

Today

- IEPA and USEPA were notified by phone this morning
- It was determined to expand the grid based Lake Survey sampling to verify and follow the possible plume and continue sampling SWPP's Crib every two hours.
- NOAA Lake Michigan flow current model shows the CURRENT HAS REVERSED from the previous two days of west to east, NOW THE CURRENT IS EAST TO WEST.
- THEREFORE CHANGE IN DIRECTION OF PLUME TO THE WEST
- TESTING WILL CONTINUE

Thanks
Alan

Alan,

Attached are 2 excel spreadsheets with all of the results from samples received yesterday. Final reports will hopefully be sent out later today.

If you need anything else, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Nathan Trowbridge
Client Services Manager

Eurofins Eaton Analytical, Inc.
110 South Hill Street, South Bend, IN 46617
Phone: 574 472 5528
Mobile: 574 302 2590

Email: NathanTrowbridge@eurofinsUS.com
Website: <http://www.EurofinsUS.com/Eaton>

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From: Stark, Alan
Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2017 6:04 PM
To: 'Poy, Thomas'; Ames, Mort; Murphy, Barrett; Hernandez-Tomlin, Julie; Litherland, Gary; Caminer, Irene; Putz, Andrea; 'dave McMillan'; Wheat, Christopher; 'McMillan, Dave'; Kelly, Mike; Schwer, Patrick; Skiadopoulos, Frank; O'Malley, Mark; Salinas, Eduardo; Litherland, Gary; Saleh, Hassen; Bresnahan, William
Cc: 'Mary Hollingsworth'; 'Korleski, Christopher'; 'feighnerb@michigan.gov'
Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

See below highlighted, results from first ten samples (excel sheet) in agreement with our routine samples collected quarterly. Remaining results from Crib lake survey being delivered to Eurofins (as of this email) to follow. Also attached GIS plot of lake grid survey, results to follow. As stated earlier further sampling will be based on final results.

Thanks
Alan

From: Nathan Trowbridge [<mailto:NathanTrowbridge@eurofinsUS.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2017 5:30 PM
To: Stark, Alan
Subject: RE: COC Sheets

Thanks Alan,

I've attached data for the 1st 10 samples that were analyzed. The next 4, plus the ones coming in tonight should be ready by tomorrow morning. The data looks fairly steady each hour and what I saw of the next 4 was similar. I'll let you know more as soon as I have data.

If you need anything else, please let me know. I'll be here until all of the new samples are on the instrument. I'll be at home checking email after that.

Thanks,

Nathan Trowbridge

Phone: +1 574 472 5528

Mobile: +1 574 302 2590

Email: NathanTrowbridge@EurofinsUS.com

From: Stark, Alan [<mailto:Alan.Stark@cityofchicago.org>]

Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2017 6:09 PM

To: Nathan Trowbridge

Subject: COC Sheets

See attached completed COC from the morning and one from the Lake Survey that is on the way to you

Alan

This e-mail, and any attachments thereto, is intended only for use by the addressee(s) named herein and may contain legally privileged and/or confidential information. If you are not the intended recipient of this e-mail (or the person responsible for delivering this document to the intended recipient), you are hereby notified that any dissemination, distribution, printing or copying of this e-mail, and any attachment thereto, is strictly prohibited. If you have received this e-mail in error, please respond to the individual sending the message, and permanently delete the original and any copy of any e-mail and printout thereof.

Notify us [here](#) to report this email as spam.

From: Stark, Alan

Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2017 12:23 PM

To: 'Poy, Thomas'; Ames, Mort; Murphy, Barrett; Hernandez-Tomlin, Julie; Litherland, Gary; Caminer, Irene; Putz, Andrea; dave McMillan; Wheat, Christopher; McMillan, Dave; Kelly, Mike; Schwer, Patrick; Skiadopoulos, Frank; O'Malley, Mark; Salinas, Eduardo; Litherland, Gary

Cc: Mary Hollingsworth; Korleski, Christopher; feighnerb@michigan.gov

Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

Thank you!

From: Poy, Thomas [<mailto:poy.thomas@epa.gov>]

Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2017 12:10 PM

To: Stark, Alan; Ames, Mort; Murphy, Barrett; Hernandez-Tomlin, Julie; Litherland, Gary; Caminer, Irene; Putz, Andrea; dave McMillan; Wheat, Christopher; McMillan, Dave; Kelly, Mike; Schwer, Patrick; Skiadopoulos, Frank; O'Malley, Mark; Salinas, Eduardo; Litherland, Gary

Cc: Mary Hollingsworth; Korleski, Christopher; feighnerb@michigan.gov

Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

I believe the source of the active release has been stopped and it is just residual in the outfall now.

Tom

Tom Poy
Chief, Ground Water and Drinking Water Branch
USEPA - Region 5
(312) 886-5991

From: Stark, Alan [<mailto:Alan.Stark@cityofchicago.org>]

Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2017 10:37 AM

To: Poy, Thomas <poy.thomas@epa.gov>; Ames, Mort <Mort.Ames@cityofchicago.org>; Murphy, Barrett <Barrett.Murphy@cityofchicago.org>; Hernandez-Tomlin, Julie <Julie.HernandezTomlin@cityofchicago.org>; Litherland, Gary <Gary.Litherland@cityofchicago.org>; Caminer, Irene <Irene.Caminer@cityofchicago.org>; Putz, Andrea <Andrea.Putz@cityofchicago.org>; dave McMillan <dave.mcmillan@illinois.gov>; Wheat, Christopher <Christopher.Wheat@cityofchicago.org>; McMillan, Dave <DAVE.MCMILLAN@Illinois.gov>; Kelly, Mike <Mike.Kelly@cityofchicago.org>; Schwer, Patrick <Patrick.Schwer@cityofchicago.org>; Skiadopoulos, Frank <Frank.Skiadopoulos@cityofchicago.org>; O'Malley, Mark <Mark.OMalley@cityofchicago.org>; Salinas, Eduardo <Eduardo.Salinas@cityofchicago.org>; Litherland, Gary <Gary.Litherland@cityofchicago.org>

Cc: Mary Hollingsworth <MHolling@idem.IN.gov>; Korleski, Christopher <korleski.christopher@epa.gov>; feighnerb@michigan.gov

Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

Have they stopped the outfall?

From: Poy, Thomas [<mailto:poy.thomas@epa.gov>]

Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2017 10:35 AM

To: Stark, Alan; Ames, Mort; Murphy, Barrett; Hernandez-Tomlin, Julie; Litherland, Gary; Caminer, Irene; Putz, Andrea; dave McMillan; Wheat, Christopher; McMillan, Dave; Kelly, Mike; Schwer, Patrick; Skiadopoulos, Frank; O'Malley, Mark; Salinas, Eduardo; Litherland, Gary

Cc: Mary Hollingsworth; Korleski, Christopher; feighnerb@michigan.gov

Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

Hi Alan: No update on quantity or concentration. The sampling from yesterday was indicating that the chromium had not reached Lake Michigan. More sampling is going to be done today.

Tom

Tom Poy
Chief, Ground Water and Drinking Water Branch
USEPA - Region 5
(312) 886-5991

From: Stark, Alan [<mailto:Alan.Stark@cityofchicago.org>]

Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2017 10:08 AM

To: Ames, Mort <Mort.Ames@cityofchicago.org>; Murphy, Barrett <Barrett.Murphy@cityofchicago.org>; Hernandez-Tomlin, Julie <Julie.HernandezTomlin@cityofchicago.org>; Litherland, Gary <Gary.Litherland@cityofchicago.org>; Caminer, Irene <Irene.Caminer@cityofchicago.org>; Putz, Andrea <Andrea.Putz@cityofchicago.org>; Poy, Thomas <poy.thomas@epa.gov>; dave McMillan <dave.mcmillan@illinois.gov>; Wheat, Christopher <Christopher.Wheat@cityofchicago.org>; McMillan, Dave <DAVE.MCMILLAN@Illinois.gov>; Kelly, Mike <Mike.Kelly@cityofchicago.org>; Schwer, Patrick <Patrick.Schwer@cityofchicago.org>; Skiadopoulos, Frank <Frank.Skiadopoulos@cityofchicago.org>; O'Malley, Mark <Mark.OMalley@cityofchicago.org>; Salinas, Eduardo <Eduardo.Salinas@cityofchicago.org>; Litherland, Gary <Gary.Litherland@cityofchicago.org>

Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

Hi Tom,

Any updates, release quantity and concentration?

Lake currents still counter clockwise. Hourly samples from SWPP's 68th Street Crib complex in route to Eurofins in South Bend. Lake Survey underway, samples will be driven to Eurofins once they boat gets back. Results will be forwarded as I get them. Crib sampling now every two hours lab results will dictated further sampling and possible mitigation.

Thanks
Alan

From: Stark, Alan
Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2017 1:44 AM
To: Ames, Mort; Murphy, Barrett; Hernandez-Tomlin, Julie; Litherland, Gary; Caminer, Irene; Putz, Andrea; Poy, Thomas; dave McMillan; Wheat, Christopher
Subject: Fwd: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

Tom
Thank you for the update.
We are collecting hourly at SWPP crib, driving samples to Euro fins this morning, results later afternoon. Lake survey in morning, drive samples in afternoon, results late night. I will forward results to you and Dave as I get them.

Thanks
Alan

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

----- Original message -----

From: "Poy, Thomas" <poy.thomas@epa.gov>
Date: 4/11/17 11:40 PM (GMT-06:00)
To: "Stark, Alan" <Alan.Stark@cityofchicago.org>, Dave McMillan <dave.mcmillan@illinois.gov>, Mary Hollingsworth <MHolling@idem.IN.gov>, feighnerb@michigan.gov
Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

The last that I heard, they were still investigating the cause and volume of the release. A set of samples were collected before dark. Samples were taken upstream of the outfall, at the outfall, and downstream of the outfall. Two samples were also taken at the nearby Indiana American Water intake and wet well. A subset of samples, including the samples taken at the water intake, were sent to an on-site lab for rapid turnaround. The highest concentration of in the samples was detected at the outfall was 949 ppb. The samples taken at the American Water intake and wet well were non-detects for total chromium. The rest of the samples will be sent off to a lab in Valparaiso later tonight to be run for hexavalent chromium. Overnight, samples will be taken at the outfall every 2 hours and another full round of samples will be taken tomorrow morning

Tom Poy
Chief, Ground Water and Drinking Water Branch

USEPA - Region 5
(312) 886-5991

From: Stark, Alan [mailto:Alan.Stark@cityofchicago.org]
Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 8:02 PM
To: Poy, Thomas <poy.thomas@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

Any updates?

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

----- Original message -----

From: "Poy, Thomas" <poy.thomas@epa.gov>
Date: 4/11/17 2:53 PM (GMT-06:00)
To: "Stark, Alan" <Alan.Stark@cityofchicago.org>
Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

Alan: Thanks for the information. I'm sharing what you're doing with the OSCs at the site.

Tom

Tom Poy
Chief, Ground Water and Drinking Water Branch
USEPA - Region 5
(312) 886-5991

From: Stark, Alan [mailto:Alan.Stark@cityofchicago.org]
Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 2:19 PM
To: McMillan, Dave <DAVE.MCMILLAN@Illinois.gov>; Poy, Thomas <poy.thomas@epa.gov>
Cc: Murphy, Barrett <Barrett.Murphy@cityofchicago.org>; Hernandez-Tomlin, Julie <Julie.HernandezTomlin@cityofchicago.org>; Putz, Andrea <Andrea.Putz@cityofchicago.org>; Kelly, Mike <Mike.Kelly@cityofchicago.org>; Schwer, Patrick <Patrick.Schwer@cityofchicago.org>; O'Malley, Mark <Mark.OMalley@cityofchicago.org>; Salinas, Eduardo <Eduardo.Salinas@cityofchicago.org>; Skiadopoulos, Frank <Frank.Skiadopoulos@cityofchicago.org>; Litherland, Gary <Gary.Litherland@cityofchicago.org>; Caminer, Irene <Irene.Caminer@cityofchicago.org>
Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

Dave and Tom

Per our discussion, NOAA currents showing counter clockwise current in Lake Michigan and winds out of the west. For precaution we will sample for Cr6+ at SWPP Crib hourly once we get the sample bottles from the lab. Tomorrow, out of an abundance of caution, we will do a grid sampling of Lake Michigan, quarter mile off shore near Gary Indiana for Cr6+. Any questions please call me anytime 312-617-4233.

Thanks
Alan

From: McMillan, Dave [mailto:DAVE.MCMILLAN@Illinois.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 1:53 PM
To: Stark, Alan
Subject: FW: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

Additional information per our discussion.

From: Lauder, Roger
Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 1:50 PM
To: McMillan, Dave <DAVE.MCMILLAN@Illinois.gov>; Cook, David <DAVID.COOK@Illinois.gov>
Subject: FW: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

FYI

From: Borries, Samuel [mailto:borries.samuel@epa.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 1:48 PM
To: Lauder, Roger
Cc: El-Zein, Jason
Subject: [External] FW: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

Roger,
Here is the ER notification report with the current information.

From: Thomas, Craig
Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 1:46 PM
To: R5 ER Notification List <R5_ER_Notification_List@epa.gov>
Cc: Maguire, Andrew <maguire.andrew@epa.gov>; Beslow, Mike <beslow.mike@epa.gov>; Lippert, Jeffrey <lippert.jeffrey@epa.gov>; Behnke, Kristina <behnke.kristina@epa.gov>; Mendez, Thomas <mendez.thomas@epa.gov>
Subject: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

ER Notification #1 (Initial) – U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release, Portage, IN

Region 5 ER Notification #1 (Initial): NRC# 1175399, U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release, Portage, IN

Report as of: 09/23/16 at 13:45 CDT

Overview: On 4/11/17 at approximately 09:30 central time, U.S Steel Corporation discovered a green discoloration in the water near an outfall at their facility in Portage, IN, discharging into Burns Waterway (aka Burns Ditch). U.S. Steel reported this to the National Response Center (NRC #1175399). OSC Thomas contacted the reporting party regarding this incident, and was told the facility was conducting an investigation to determine what it was. OSC Thomas then contacted OSCs Beslow and Mendez, who were nearby, to investigate as well.

Upon arriving at the scene, OSCs Beslow and Mendez met with U.S Steel's environmental manager and were told that the facility had determined the material was hexavalent chrome. This information was immediately shared with United States Coast Guard personnel, who were also responding.

State, Local, and other Federal Agency Action: The USCG, and IDEM have arrived on scene. EPA has notified local water intakes in Gary, East Chicago, and Ogden Dunes. Indiana American Water in Ogden Dunes has shut down their water intake and has approximately 4 hours of reserves.

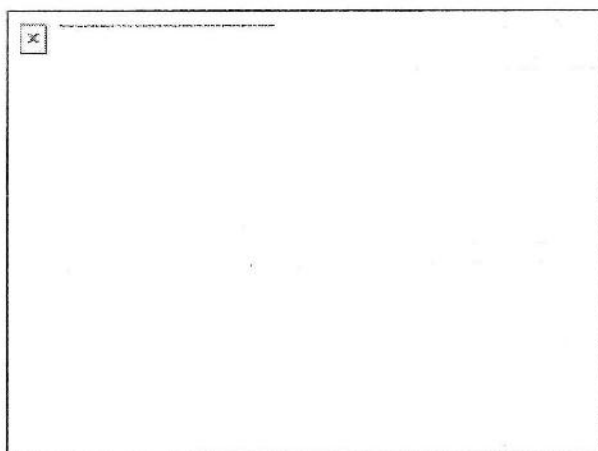
EPA has also notified U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Department of the Interior and the National Park Service.

EPA Actions: EPA OSC Andy Maguire and START are mobilizing to the scene to conduct water sampling. Investigations are under way to determine how the hexavalent chrome released, the amount of hexavalent chrome released and the extent of the release into the waterway.

The facility has minimized the amount of water it is using to essential systems only to reduce through put.

Media Interest: No media interest at this time.

EPA Region 5 OSC contact: Andy Maguire, 312-758-8672



Craig Thomas
US EPA Region 5 On-Scene Coordinator
Emergency Response Branch
77 W. Jackson Blvd., SE-5J
Chicago, IL 60604
312-886-5907 office
312-802-9637 cell



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Poy, Thomas

From: Poy, Thomas
Sent: Friday, April 14, 2017 2:29 PM
To: 'Stark, Alan'
Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

Thanks, Alan.

Tom Poy
Chief, Ground Water and Drinking Water Branch
USEPA - Region 5
(312) 886-5991

From: Stark, Alan [mailto:Alan.Stark@cityofchicago.org]
Sent: Friday, April 14, 2017 1:48 PM
To: Poy, Thomas <poy.thomas@epa.gov>; Ames, Mort <Mort.Ames@cityofchicago.org>; Murphy, Barrett <Barrett.Murphy@cityofchicago.org>; Hernandez-Tomlin, Julie <Julie.HernandezTomlin@cityofchicago.org>; Litherland, Gary <Gary.Litherland@cityofchicago.org>; Caminer, Irene <Irene.Caminer@cityofchicago.org>; Putz, Andrea <Andrea.Putz@cityofchicago.org>; dave McMillan <dave.mcmillan@illinois.gov>; Wheat, Christopher <Christopher.Wheat@cityofchicago.org>; McMillan, Dave <DAVE.MCMILLAN@Illinois.gov>; Kelly, Mike <Mike.Kelly@cityofchicago.org>; Schwer, Patrick <Patrick.Schwer@cityofchicago.org>; Skiadopoulos, Frank <Frank.Skiadopoulos@cityofchicago.org>; O'Malley, Mark <Mark.OMalley@cityofchicago.org>; Salinas, Eduardo <Eduardo.Salinas@cityofchicago.org>; Litherland, Gary <Gary.Litherland@cityofchicago.org>; Saleh, Hassen <Hassen.Saleh@cityofchicago.org>; Bresnahan, William <William.Bresnahan@cityofchicago.org>
Cc: Mary Hollingsworth <MHolling@idem.IN.gov>; Korleski, Christopher <korleski.christopher@epa.gov>; feighnerb@michigan.gov
Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

All

Attached are the results from yesterday 4/13/17

- All Samples collected at SWPP from SWPP's 68th Street Crib Complex are within normal range.
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- Other grid locations showed elevated results below 0.7; thereby, creating a contaminant plume from the point source at 1G.
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- Appears the concentration is being diluted

Today 4/14/17

- IEPA was notified by phone this morning
- It was determined to again expand the grid based Lake Survey sampling to verify and the plume to make sure the plume is diluting and continue sampling SWPP's Crib every two hours.
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- TESTING WILL CONTINUE

Thanks

Alan

From: Stark, Alan

Sent: Thursday, April 13, 2017 1:22 PM

To: 'Poy, Thomas'; Ames, Mort; Murphy, Barrett; Hernandez-Tomlin, Julie; Litherland, Gary; Caminer, Irene; Putz, Andrea; 'dave McMillan'; Wheat, Christopher; 'McMillan, Dave'; Kelly, Mike; Schwer, Patrick; Skiadopoulos, Frank; O'Malley, Mark; Salinas, Eduardo; Litherland, Gary; Saleh, Hassen; Bresnahan, William

Cc: 'Mary Hollingsworth'; 'Korleski, Christopher'; 'feighnerb@michigan.gov'

Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

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- TESTING WILL CONTINUE

Thanks

Alan

Alan,

Attached are 2 excel spreadsheets with all of the results from samples received yesterday. Final reports will hopefully be sent out later today.

If you need anything else, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Nathan Trowbridge

Client Services Manager

Eurofins Eaton Analytical, Inc.

110 South Hill Street, South Bend, IN 46617

Phone: 574 472 5528

Mobile: 574 302 2590

Email: NathanTrowbridge@eurofinsUS.com
Website: <http://www.EurofinsUS.com/Eaton>

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From: Stark, Alan
Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2017 6:04 PM
To: 'Poy, Thomas'; Ames, Mort; Murphy, Barrett; Hernandez-Tomlin, Julie; Litherland, Gary; Caminer, Irene; Putz, Andrea; 'dave McMillan'; Wheat, Christopher; 'McMillan, Dave'; Kelly, Mike; Schwer, Patrick; Skiadopoulos, Frank; O'Malley, Mark; Salinas, Eduardo; Litherland, Gary; Saleh, Hassen; Bresnahan, William
Cc: 'Mary Hollingsworth'; 'Korleski, Christopher'; 'feighnerb@michigan.gov'
Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

See below highlighted, results from first ten samples (excel sheet) in agreement with our routine samples collected quarterly. Remaining results from Crib lake survey being delivered to Eurofins (as of this email) to follow. Also attached GIS plot of lake grid survey, results to follow. As stated earlier further sampling will be based on final results.

Thanks
Alan

From: Nathan Trowbridge [<mailto:NathanTrowbridge@eurofinsUS.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2017 5:30 PM
To: Stark, Alan
Subject: RE: COC Sheets

Thanks Alan,

I've attached data for the 1st 10 samples that were analyzed. The next 4, plus the ones coming in tonight should be ready by tomorrow morning. The data looks fairly steady each hour and what I saw of the next 4 was similar. I'll let you know more as soon as I have data.

If you need anything else, please let me know. I'll be here until all of the new samples are on the instrument. I'll be at home checking email after that.

Thanks,

Nathan Trowbridge

Phone: +1 574 472 5528
Mobile: +1 574 302 2590
Email: NathanTrowbridge@EurofinsUS.com

From: Stark, Alan [<mailto:Alan.Stark@cityofchicago.org>]
Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2017 6:09 PM
To: Nathan Trowbridge
Subject: COC Sheets

See attached completed COC from the morning and one from the Lake Survey that is on the way to you

Alan

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Notify us [here](#) to report this email as spam.

From: Stark, Alan
Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2017 12:23 PM
To: 'Poy, Thomas'; Ames, Mort; Murphy, Barrett; Hernandez-Tomlin, Julie; Litherland, Gary; Caminer, Irene; Putz, Andrea; dave McMillan; Wheat, Christopher; McMillan, Dave; Kelly, Mike; Schwer, Patrick; Skiadopoulos, Frank; O'Malley, Mark; Salinas, Eduardo; Litherland, Gary
Cc: Mary Hollingsworth; Korleski, Christopher; feighnerb@michigan.gov
Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

Thank you!

From: Poy, Thomas [<mailto:poy.thomas@epa.gov>]
Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2017 12:10 PM
To: Stark, Alan; Ames, Mort; Murphy, Barrett; Hernandez-Tomlin, Julie; Litherland, Gary; Caminer, Irene; Putz, Andrea; dave McMillan; Wheat, Christopher; McMillan, Dave; Kelly, Mike; Schwer, Patrick; Skiadopoulos, Frank; O'Malley, Mark; Salinas, Eduardo; Litherland, Gary
Cc: Mary Hollingsworth; Korleski, Christopher; feighnerb@michigan.gov
Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

I believe the source of the active release has been stopped and it is just residual in the outfall now.

Tom

Tom Poy
Chief, Ground Water and Drinking Water Branch
USEPA - Region 5
(312) 886-5991

From: Stark, Alan [<mailto:Alan.Stark@cityofchicago.org>]
Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2017 10:37 AM

To: Poy, Thomas <poy.thomas@epa.gov>; Ames, Mort <Mort.Ames@cityofchicago.org>; Murphy, Barrett <Barrett.Murphy@cityofchicago.org>; Hernandez-Tomlin, Julie <Julie.HernandezTomlin@cityofchicago.org>; Litherland, Gary <Gary.Litherland@cityofchicago.org>; Caminer, Irene <Irene.Caminer@cityofchicago.org>; Putz, Andrea <Andrea.Putz@cityofchicago.org>; dave McMillan <dave.mcmillan@illinois.gov>; Wheat, Christopher <Christopher.Wheat@cityofchicago.org>; McMillan, Dave <DAVE.MCMILLAN@Illinois.gov>; Kelly, Mike <Mike.Kelly@cityofchicago.org>; Schwer, Patrick <Patrick.Schwer@cityofchicago.org>; Skiadopoulos, Frank <Frank.Skiadopoulos@cityofchicago.org>; O'Malley, Mark <Mark.OMalley@cityofchicago.org>; Salinas, Eduardo <Eduardo.Salinas@cityofchicago.org>; Litherland, Gary <Gary.Litherland@cityofchicago.org>
Cc: Mary Hollingsworth <MHolling@idem.IN.gov>; Korleski, Christopher <korleski.christopher@epa.gov>; feighnerb@michigan.gov
Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

Have they stopped the outfall?

From: Poy, Thomas [mailto:poy.thomas@epa.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2017 10:35 AM
To: Stark, Alan; Ames, Mort; Murphy, Barrett; Hernandez-Tomlin, Julie; Litherland, Gary; Caminer, Irene; Putz, Andrea; dave McMillan; Wheat, Christopher; McMillan, Dave; Kelly, Mike; Schwer, Patrick; Skiadopoulos, Frank; O'Malley, Mark; Salinas, Eduardo; Litherland, Gary
Cc: Mary Hollingsworth; Korleski, Christopher; feighnerb@michigan.gov
Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

Hi Alan: No update on quantity or concentration. The sampling from yesterday was indicating that the chromium had not reached Lake Michigan. More sampling is going to be done today.

Tom

Tom Poy
Chief, Ground Water and Drinking Water Branch
USEPA - Region 5
(312) 886-5991

From: Stark, Alan [mailto:Alan.Stark@cityofchicago.org]
Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2017 10:08 AM
To: Ames, Mort <Mort.Ames@cityofchicago.org>; Murphy, Barrett <Barrett.Murphy@cityofchicago.org>; Hernandez-Tomlin, Julie <Julie.HernandezTomlin@cityofchicago.org>; Litherland, Gary <Gary.Litherland@cityofchicago.org>; Caminer, Irene <Irene.Caminer@cityofchicago.org>; Putz, Andrea <Andrea.Putz@cityofchicago.org>; Poy, Thomas <poy.thomas@epa.gov>; dave McMillan <dave.mcmillan@illinois.gov>; Wheat, Christopher <Christopher.Wheat@cityofchicago.org>; McMillan, Dave <DAVE.MCMILLAN@Illinois.gov>; Kelly, Mike <Mike.Kelly@cityofchicago.org>; Schwer, Patrick <Patrick.Schwer@cityofchicago.org>; Skiadopoulos, Frank <Frank.Skiadopoulos@cityofchicago.org>; O'Malley, Mark <Mark.OMalley@cityofchicago.org>; Salinas, Eduardo <Eduardo.Salinas@cityofchicago.org>; Litherland, Gary <Gary.Litherland@cityofchicago.org>
Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

Hi Tom,

Any updates, release quantity and concentration?

Lake currents still counter clockwise. Hourly samples from SWPP's 68th Street Crib complex in route to Eurofins in South Bend. Lake Survey underway, samples will be driven to Eurofins once they boat gets back. Results will be forwarded as I get them. Crib sampling now every two hours lab results will dictated further sampling and possible mitigation.

Thanks
Alan

From: Stark, Alan
Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2017 1:44 AM
To: Ames, Mort; Murphy, Barrett; Hernandez-Tomlin, Julie; Litherland, Gary; Caminer, Irene; Putz, Andrea; Poy, Thomas; dave McMillan; Wheat, Christopher
Subject: Fwd: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

Tom
Thank you for the update.
We are collecting hourly at SWPP crib, driving samples to Euro fins this morning, results later afternoon. Lake survey in morning, drive samples in afternoon, results late night. I will forward results to you and Dave as I get them.

Thanks
Alan

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

----- Original message -----

From: "Poy, Thomas" <poy.thomas@epa.gov>
Date: 4/11/17 11:40 PM (GMT-06:00)
To: "Stark, Alan" <Alan.Stark@cityofchicago.org>, Dave McMillan <dave.mcmillan@illinois.gov>, Mary Hollingsworth <MHollings@idem.IN.gov>, feighnerb@michigan.gov
Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

The last that I heard, they were still investigating the cause and volume of the release. A set of samples were collected before dark. Samples were taken upstream of the outfall, at the outfall, and downstream of the outfall. Two samples were also taken at the nearby Indiana American Water intake and wet well. A subset of samples, including the samples taken at the water intake, were sent to an on-site lab for rapid turnaround. The highest concentration of in the samples was detected at the outfall was 949 ppb. The samples taken at the American Water intake and wet well were non-detects for total chromium. The rest of the samples will be sent off to a lab in Valparaiso later tonight to be run for hexavalent chromium. Overnight, samples will be taken at the outfall every 2 hours and another full round of samples will be taken tomorrow morning

Tom Poy
Chief, Ground Water and Drinking Water Branch
USEPA - Region 5
(312) 886-5991

From: Stark, Alan [<mailto:Alan.Stark@cityofchicago.org>]
Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 8:02 PM
To: Poy, Thomas <poy.thomas@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

Any updates?

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

----- Original message -----

From: "Poy, Thomas" <poy.thomas@epa.gov>

Date: 4/11/17 2:53 PM (GMT-06:00)

To: "Stark, Alan" <Alan.Stark@cityofchicago.org>

Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

Alan: Thanks for the information. I'm sharing what you're doing with the OSCs at the site.

Tom

Tom Poy

Chief, Ground Water and Drinking Water Branch

USEPA - Region 5

(312) 886-5991

From: Stark, Alan [<mailto:Alan.Stark@cityofchicago.org>]

Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 2:19 PM

To: McMillan, Dave <DAVE.MCMILLAN@Illinois.gov>; Poy, Thomas <poy.thomas@epa.gov>

Cc: Murphy, Barrett <Barrett.Murphy@cityofchicago.org>; Hernandez-Tomlin, Julie

<Julie.HernandezTomlin@cityofchicago.org>; Putz, Andrea <Andrea.Putz@cityofchicago.org>; Kelly, Mike

<Mike.Kelly@cityofchicago.org>; Schwer, Patrick <Patrick.Schwer@cityofchicago.org>; O'Malley, Mark

<Mark.OMalley@cityofchicago.org>; Salinas, Eduardo <Eduardo.Salinas@cityofchicago.org>; Skiadopoulos, Frank

<Frank.Skiadopoulos@cityofchicago.org>; Litherland, Gary <Gary.Litherland@cityofchicago.org>; Caminer, Irene

<Irene.Caminer@cityofchicago.org>

Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

Dave and Tom

Per our discussion, NOAA currents showing counter clockwise current in Lake Michigan and winds out of the west. For precaution we will sample for Cr6+ at SWPP Crib hourly once we get the sample bottles from the lab. Tomorrow, out of an abundance of caution, we will do a grid sampling of Lake Michigan, quarter mile off shore near Gary Indiana for Cr6+. Any questions please call me anytime 312-617-4233.

Thanks

Alan

From: McMillan, Dave [<mailto:DAVE.MCMILLAN@Illinois.gov>]

Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 1:53 PM

To: Stark, Alan

Subject: FW: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

Additional information per our discussion.

From: Lauder, Roger
Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 1:50 PM
To: McMillan, Dave <DAVE.MCMILLAN@Illinois.gov>; Cook, David <DAVID.COOK@Illinois.gov>
Subject: FW: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

FYI

From: Borries, Samuel [mailto:borries.samuel@epa.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 1:48 PM
To: Lauder, Roger
Cc: El-Zein, Jason
Subject: [External] FW: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

Roger,
Here is the ER notification report with the current information.

From: Thomas, Craig
Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 1:46 PM
To: R5 ER Notification List <R5_ER_Notification_List@epa.gov>
Cc: Maguire, Andrew <maguire.andrew@epa.gov>; Beslow, Mike <beslow.mike@epa.gov>; Lippert, Jeffrey <lippert.jeffrey@epa.gov>; Behnke, Kristina <behnke.kristina@epa.gov>; Mendez, Thomas <mendez.thomas@epa.gov>
Subject: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

ER Notification #1 (Initial) – U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release, Portage, IN

Region 5 ER Notification #1 (Initial): NRC# 1175399, U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release, Portage, IN

Report as of: 09/23/16 at 13:45 CDT

Overview: On 4/11/17 at approximately 09:30 central time, U.S Steel Corporation discovered a green discoloration in the water near an outfall at their facility in Portage, IN, discharging into Burns Waterway (aka Burns Ditch). U.S. Steel reported this to the National Response Center (NRC #1175399). OSC Thomas contacted the reporting party regarding this incident, and was told the facility was conducting an investigation to determine what it was. OSC Thomas then contacted OSCs Beslow and Mendez, who were nearby, to investigate as well.

Upon arriving at the scene, OSCs Beslow and Mendez met with U.S Steel's environmental manager and were told that the facility had determined the material was hexavalent chrome. This information was immediately shared with United States Coast Guard personnel, who were also responding.

State, Local, and other Federal Agency Action: The USCG, and IDEM have arrived on scene. EPA has notified local water intakes in Gary, East Chicago, and Ogden Dunes. Indiana American Water in Ogden Dunes has shut down their water intake and has approximately 4 hours of reserves.

EPA has also notified U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Department of the Interior and the National Park Service.

EPA Actions: EPA OSC Andy Maguire and START are mobilizing to the scene to conduct water sampling. Investigations are under way to determine how the hexavalent chrome released, the amount of hexavalent chrome released and the extent of the release into the waterway.

The facility has minimized the amount of water it is using to essential systems only to reduce through put.

Media Interest: No media interest at this time.

EPA Region 5 OSC contact: Andy Maguire, 312-758-8672



Craig Thomas
US EPA Region 5 On-Scene Coordinator
Emergency Response Branch
77 W. Jackson Blvd., SE-5J
Chicago, IL 60604
312-886-5907 office
312-802-9637 cell



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Poy, Thomas

From: Mendez, Thomas
Sent: Friday, April 14, 2017 2:42 PM
To: Poy, Thomas; Borries, Samuel
Cc: Korleski, Christopher; Henry, Timothy
Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

Thanks for sharing.

Can we ask if these have any qualifiers? I had thought it would have J qualifiers at that low detection levels.

-Tom

Sent from iPhone

From: Poy, Thomas
Sent: Friday, April 14, 2017 2:30 PM
To: Borries, Samuel <borries.samuel@epa.gov>; Mendez, Thomas <mendez.thomas@epa.gov>
Cc: Korleski, Christopher <korleski.christopher@epa.gov>; Henry, Timothy <henry.timothy@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

Sam/Tom: Here are Chicago's sampling results from yesterday. The current changed yesterday to a westerly direction as verified by slight increases in concentrations on the grid to the northwest. The previous day's high values at location 1G and 1 GD are a third lower.

Chicago is going out again today to sample and will be expanding the grid.

Tom

Tom Poy
Chief, Ground Water and Drinking Water Branch
USEPA - Region 5
(312) 886-5991

From: Stark, Alan [<mailto:Alan.Stark@cityofchicago.org>]
Sent: Friday, April 14, 2017 1:48 PM
To: Poy, Thomas <poy.thomas@epa.gov>; Ames, Mort <Mort.Ames@cityofchicago.org>; Murphy, Barrett <Barrett.Murphy@cityofchicago.org>; Hernandez-Tomlin, Julie <Julie.HernandezTomlin@cityofchicago.org>; Litherland, Gary <Gary.Litherland@cityofchicago.org>; Caminer, Irene <Irene.Caminer@cityofchicago.org>; Putz, Andrea <Andrea.Putz@cityofchicago.org>; dave McMillan <dave.mcmillan@illinois.gov>; Wheat, Christopher <Christopher.Wheat@cityofchicago.org>; McMillan, Dave <DAVE.MCMILLAN@Illinois.gov>; Kelly, Mike <Mike.Kelly@cityofchicago.org>; Schwer, Patrick <Patrick.Schwer@cityofchicago.org>; Skiadopoulos, Frank <Frank.Skiadopoulos@cityofchicago.org>; O'Malley, Mark <Mark.OMalley@cityofchicago.org>; Salinas, Eduardo <Eduardo.Salinas@cityofchicago.org>; Litherland, Gary <Gary.Litherland@cityofchicago.org>; Saleh, Hassen <Hassen.Saleh@cityofchicago.org>; Bresnahan, William <William.Bresnahan@cityofchicago.org>
Cc: Mary Hollingsworth <MHolling@idem.IN.gov>; Korleski, Christopher <korleski.christopher@epa.gov>; feighnerb@[michigan.gov](mailto:feighnerb@michigan.gov)
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- It was determined to again expand the grid based Lake Survey sampling to verify and the plume to make sure the plume is diluting and continue sampling SWPP's Crib every two hours.
- NOAA Lake Michigan flow current model shows THE CURRENT IS EAST TO WEST.
- TESTING WILL CONTINUE

Thanks
Alan

From: Stark, Alan

Sent: Thursday, April 13, 2017 1:22 PM

To: 'Poy, Thomas'; Ames, Mort; Murphy, Barrett; Hernandez-Tomlin, Julie; Litherland, Gary; Caminer, Irene; Putz, Andrea; 'dave McMillan'; Wheat, Christopher; 'McMillan, Dave'; Kelly, Mike; Schwer, Patrick; Skiadopoulos, Frank; O'Malley, Mark; Salinas, Eduardo; Litherland, Gary; Saleh, Hassen; Bresnahan, William

Cc: 'Mary Hollingsworth'; 'Korleski, Christopher'; 'feighnerb@michigan.gov'

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- THEREFORE CHANGE IN DIRECTION OF PLUME TO THE WEST
- TESTING WILL CONTINUE

Thanks
Alan

Alan,

Attached are 2 excel spreadsheets with all of the results from samples received yesterday. Final reports will hopefully be sent out later today.

If you need anything else, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Nathan Trowbridge
Client Services Manager

Eurofins Eaton Analytical, Inc.
110 South Hill Street, South Bend, IN 46617
Phone: 574 472 5528
Mobile: 574 302 2590

Email: NathanTrowbridge@eurofinsUS.com
Website: <http://www.EurofinsUS.com/Eaton>

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From: Stark, Alan
Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2017 6:04 PM
To: 'Poy, Thomas'; Ames, Mort; Murphy, Barrett; Hernandez-Tomlin, Julie; Litherland, Gary; Caminer, Irene; Putz, Andrea; 'dave McMillan'; Wheat, Christopher; 'McMillan, Dave'; Kelly, Mike; Schwer, Patrick; Skiadopoulos, Frank; O'Malley, Mark; Salinas, Eduardo; Litherland, Gary; Saleh, Hassen; Bresnahan, William
Cc: 'Mary Hollingsworth'; 'Korleski, Christopher'; 'feighnerb@michigan.gov'
Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

See below highlighted, results from first ten samples (excel sheet) in agreement with our routine samples collected quarterly. Remaining results from Crib lake survey being delivered to Eurofins (as of this email) to follow. Also attached GIS plot of lake grid survey, results to follow. As stated earlier further sampling will be based on final results.

Thanks
Alan

From: Nathan Trowbridge [<mailto:NathanTrowbridge@eurofinsUS.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2017 5:30 PM
To: Stark, Alan
Subject: RE: COC Sheets

Thanks Alan,

I've attached data for the 1st 10 samples that were analyzed. The next 4, plus the ones coming in tonight should be ready by tomorrow morning. The data looks fairly steady each hour and what I saw of the next 4 was similar. I'll let you know more as soon as I have data.

If you need anything else, please let me know. I'll be here until all of the new samples are on the instrument. I'll be at home checking email after that.

Thanks,

Nathan Trowbridge

Phone: +1 574 472 5528

Mobile: +1 574 302 2590

Email: NathanTrowbridge@EurofinsUS.com

From: Stark, Alan [<mailto:Alan.Stark@cityofchicago.org>]

Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2017 6:09 PM

To: Nathan Trowbridge

Subject: COC Sheets

See attached completed COC from the morning and one from the Lake Survey that is on the way to you

Alan

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Notify us [here](#) to report this email as spam.

From: Stark, Alan

Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2017 12:23 PM

To: 'Poy, Thomas'; Ames, Mort; Murphy, Barrett; Hernandez-Tomlin, Julie; Litherland, Gary; Caminer, Irene; Putz, Andrea; dave McMillan; Wheat, Christopher; McMillan, Dave; Kelly, Mike; Schwer, Patrick; Skiadopoulos, Frank; O'Malley, Mark; Salinas, Eduardo; Litherland, Gary

Cc: Mary Hollingsworth; Korleski, Christopher; feighnerb@michigan.gov

Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

Thank you!

From: Poy, Thomas [<mailto:poy.thomas@epa.gov>]

Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2017 12:10 PM

To: Stark, Alan; Ames, Mort; Murphy, Barrett; Hernandez-Tomlin, Julie; Litherland, Gary; Caminer, Irene; Putz, Andrea; dave McMillan; Wheat, Christopher; McMillan, Dave; Kelly, Mike; Schwer, Patrick; Skiadopoulos, Frank; O'Malley, Mark; Salinas, Eduardo; Litherland, Gary

Cc: Mary Hollingsworth; Korleski, Christopher; feighnerb@michigan.gov

Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

I believe the source of the active release has been stopped and it is just residual in the outfall now.

Tom

Tom Poy

Chief, Ground Water and Drinking Water Branch

USEPA - Region 5

(312) 886-5991

From: Stark, Alan [<mailto:Alan.Stark@cityofchicago.org>]

Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2017 10:37 AM

To: Poy, Thomas <poy.thomas@epa.gov>; Ames, Mort <Mort.Ames@cityofchicago.org>; Murphy, Barrett <Barrett.Murphy@cityofchicago.org>; Hernandez-Tomlin, Julie <Julie.HernandezTomlin@cityofchicago.org>; Litherland, Gary <Gary.Litherland@cityofchicago.org>; Caminer, Irene <Irene.Caminer@cityofchicago.org>; Putz, Andrea <Andrea.Putz@cityofchicago.org>; dave McMillan <dave.mcmillan@illinois.gov>; Wheat, Christopher <Christopher.Wheat@cityofchicago.org>; McMillan, Dave <DAVE.MCMILLAN@Illinois.gov>; Kelly, Mike <Mike.Kelly@cityofchicago.org>; Schwer, Patrick <Patrick.Schwer@cityofchicago.org>; Skiadopoulos, Frank <Frank.Skiadopoulos@cityofchicago.org>; O'Malley, Mark <Mark.O'Malley@cityofchicago.org>; Salinas, Eduardo <Eduardo.Salinas@cityofchicago.org>; Litherland, Gary <Gary.Litherland@cityofchicago.org>

Cc: Mary Hollingsworth <MHolling@idem.IN.gov>; Korleski, Christopher <korleski.christopher@epa.gov>; feighnerb@michigan.gov

Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

Have they stopped the outfall?

From: Poy, Thomas [<mailto:poy.thomas@epa.gov>]

Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2017 10:35 AM

To: Stark, Alan; Ames, Mort; Murphy, Barrett; Hernandez-Tomlin, Julie; Litherland, Gary; Caminer, Irene; Putz, Andrea; dave McMillan; Wheat, Christopher; McMillan, Dave; Kelly, Mike; Schwer, Patrick; Skiadopoulos, Frank; O'Malley, Mark; Salinas, Eduardo; Litherland, Gary

Cc: Mary Hollingsworth; Korleski, Christopher; feighnerb@michigan.gov

Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

Hi Alan: No update on quantity or concentration. The sampling from yesterday was indicating that the chromium had not reached Lake Michigan. More sampling is going to be done today.

Tom

Tom Poy

Chief, Ground Water and Drinking Water Branch

USEPA - Region 5

(312) 886-5991

From: Stark, Alan [mailto:Alan.Stark@cityofchicago.org]

Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2017 10:08 AM

To: Ames, Mort <Mort.Ames@cityofchicago.org>; Murphy, Barrett <Barrett.Murphy@cityofchicago.org>; Hernandez-Tomlin, Julie <Julie.HernandezTomlin@cityofchicago.org>; Litherland, Gary <Gary.Litherland@cityofchicago.org>; Caminer, Irene <Irene.Caminer@cityofchicago.org>; Putz, Andrea <Andrea.Putz@cityofchicago.org>; Poy, Thomas <poy.thomas@epa.gov>; dave McMillan <dave.mcmillan@illinois.gov>; Wheat, Christopher <Christopher.Wheat@cityofchicago.org>; McMillan, Dave <DAVE.MCMILLAN@Illinois.gov>; Kelly, Mike <Mike.Kelly@cityofchicago.org>; Schwer, Patrick <Patrick.Schwer@cityofchicago.org>; Skiadopoulos, Frank <Frank.Skiadopoulos@cityofchicago.org>; O'Malley, Mark <Mark.OMalley@cityofchicago.org>; Salinas, Eduardo <Eduardo.Salinas@cityofchicago.org>; Litherland, Gary <Gary.Litherland@cityofchicago.org>

Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

Hi Tom,

Any updates, release quantity and concentration?

Lake currents still counter clockwise. Hourly samples from SWPP's 68th Street Crib complex in route to Eurofins in South Bend. Lake Survey underway, samples will be driven to Eurofins once they boat gets back. Results will be forwarded as I get them. Crib sampling now every two hours lab results will dictated further sampling and possible mitigation.

Thanks

Alan

From: Stark, Alan

Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2017 1:44 AM

To: Ames, Mort; Murphy, Barrett; Hernandez-Tomlin, Julie; Litherland, Gary; Caminer, Irene; Putz, Andrea; Poy, Thomas; dave McMillan; Wheat, Christopher

Subject: Fwd: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

Tom

Thank you for the update.

We are collecting hourly at SWPP crib, driving samples to Euro fins this morning, results later afternoon. Lake survey in morning, drive samples in afternoon, results late night. I will forward results to you and Dave as I get them.

Thanks

Alan

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

----- Original message -----

From: "Poy, Thomas" <poy.thomas@epa.gov>

Date: 4/11/17 11:40 PM (GMT-06:00)

To: "Stark, Alan" <Alan.Stark@cityofchicago.org>, Dave McMillan <dave.mcmillan@illinois.gov>, Mary Hollingsworth <MHolling@idem.IN.gov>, feighnerb@michigan.gov

Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

The last that I heard, they were still investigating the cause and volume of the release.

A set of samples were collected before dark. Samples were taken upstream of the outfall, at the outfall, and downstream of the outfall. Two samples were also taken at the nearby Indiana American Water intake and wet well. A subset of samples, including the samples taken at the water intake, were sent to an on-site lab for rapid turnaround. The highest concentration of in the samples was detected at the outfall was 949 ppb. The samples taken at the American Water intake and wet well were non-detects for total chromium. The rest of the samples will be sent off to a lab in Valparaiso later tonight to be run for hexavalent chromium. Overnight, samples will be taken at the outfall every 2 hours and another full round of samples will be taken tomorrow morning

Tom Poy
Chief, Ground Water and Drinking Water Branch
USEPA - Region 5
(312) 886-5991

From: Stark, Alan [<mailto:Alan.Stark@cityofchicago.org>]
Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 8:02 PM
To: Poy, Thomas <poy.thomas@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

Any updates?

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

----- Original message -----

From: "Poy, Thomas" <poy.thomas@epa.gov>
Date: 4/11/17 2:53 PM (GMT-06:00)
To: "Stark, Alan" <Alan.Stark@cityofchicago.org>
Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

Alan: Thanks for the information. I'm sharing what you're doing with the OSCs at the site.

Tom

Tom Poy
Chief, Ground Water and Drinking Water Branch
USEPA - Region 5
(312) 886-5991

From: Stark, Alan [<mailto:Alan.Stark@cityofchicago.org>]
Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 2:19 PM
To: McMillan, Dave <DAVE.MCMILLAN@Illinois.gov>; Poy, Thomas <poy.thomas@epa.gov>
Cc: Murphy, Barrett <Barrett.Murphy@cityofchicago.org>; Hernandez-Tomlin, Julie <Julie.HernandezTomlin@cityofchicago.org>; Putz, Andrea <Andrea.Putz@cityofchicago.org>; Kelly, Mike <Mike.Kelly@cityofchicago.org>; Schwer, Patrick <Patrick.Schwer@cityofchicago.org>; O'Malley, Mark <Mark.OMalley@cityofchicago.org>; Salinas, Eduardo <Eduardo.Salinas@cityofchicago.org>; Skiadopoulos, Frank <Frank.Skiadopoulos@cityofchicago.org>; Litherland, Gary <Gary.Litherland@cityofchicago.org>; Caminer, Irene

<Irene.Camminer@cityofchicago.org>

Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

Dave and Tom

Per our discussion, NOAA currents showing counter clockwise current in Lake Michigan and winds out of the west. For precaution we will sample for Cr6+ at SWPP Crib hourly once we get the sample bottles from the lab. Tomorrow, out of an abundance of caution, we will do a grid sampling of Lake Michigan, quarter mile off shore near Gary Indiana for Cr6+. Any questions please call me anytime 312-617-4233.

Thanks

Alan

From: McMillan, Dave [mailto:DAVE.MCMILLAN@Illinois.gov]

Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 1:53 PM

To: Stark, Alan

Subject: FW: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

Additional information per our discussion.

From: Lauder, Roger

Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 1:50 PM

To: McMillan, Dave <DAVE.MCMILLAN@Illinois.gov>; Cook, David <DAVID.COOK@Illinois.gov>

Subject: FW: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

FYI

From: Borries, Samuel [mailto:borries.samuel@epa.gov]

Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 1:48 PM

To: Lauder, Roger

Cc: El-Zein, Jason

Subject: [External] FW: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

Roger,

Here is the ER notification report with the current information.

From: Thomas, Craig

Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 1:46 PM

To: R5 ER Notification List <R5_ER_Notification_List@epa.gov>

Cc: Maguire, Andrew <maguire.andrew@epa.gov>; Beslow, Mike <beslow.mike@epa.gov>; Lippert, Jeffrey

<lippert.jeffrey@epa.gov>; Behnke, Kristina <behnke.kristina@epa.gov>; Mendez, Thomas <mendez.thomas@epa.gov>

Subject: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

ER Notification #1 (Initial) – U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release, Portage, IN

Region 5 ER Notification #1 (Initial): NRC# 1175399, U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release, Portage, IN

Report as of: 09/23/16 at 13:45 CDT

Overview: On 4/11/17 at approximately 09:30 central time, U.S Steel Corporation discovered a green discoloration in the water near an outfall at their facility in Portage, IN, discharging into Burns Waterway (aka

Burns Ditch). U.S. Steel reported this to the National Response Center (NRC #1175399). OSC Thomas contacted the reporting party regarding this incident, and was told the facility was conducting an investigation to determine what it was. OSC Thomas then contacted OSCs Beslow and Mendez, who were nearby, to investigate as well.

Upon arriving at the scene, OSCs Beslow and Mendez met with U.S. Steel's environmental manager and were told that the facility had determined the material was hexavalent chrome. This information was immediately shared with United States Coast Guard personnel, who were also responding.

State, Local, and other Federal Agency Action: The USCG, and IDEM have arrived on scene. EPA has notified local water intakes in Gary, East Chicago, and Ogden Dunes. Indiana American Water in Ogden Dunes has shut down their water intake and has approximately 4 hours of reserves.

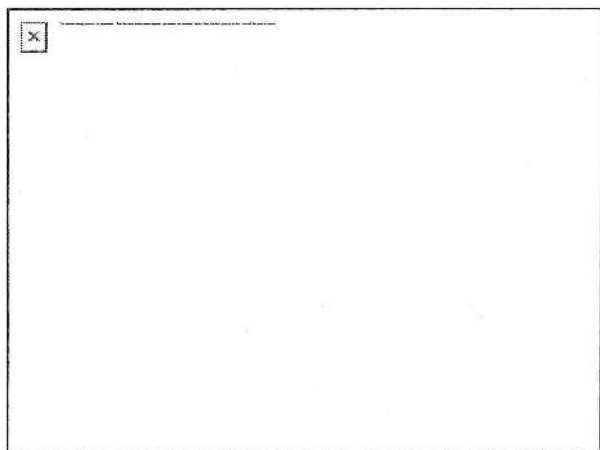
EPA has also notified U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Department of the Interior and the National Park Service.

EPA Actions: EPA OSC Andy Maguire and START are mobilizing to the scene to conduct water sampling. Investigations are under way to determine how the hexavalent chrome released, the amount of hexavalent chrome released and the extent of the release into the waterway.

The facility has minimized the amount of water it is using to essential systems only to reduce through put.

Media Interest: No media interest at this time.

EPA Region 5 OSC contact: Andy Maguire, 312-758-8672



Craig Thomas
US EPA Region 5 On-Scene Coordinator
Emergency Response Branch
77 W. Jackson Blvd., SE-5J
Chicago, IL 60604
312-886-5907 office
312-802-9637 cell



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Poy, Thomas

From: Borries, Samuel
Sent: Friday, April 14, 2017 2:52 PM
To: Poy, Thomas
Cc: Maguire, Andrew; Mendez, Thomas; Behnke, Kristina
Subject: FW: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN
Attachments: removed.txt; SWPP 68th Crib 041317 Cr+.xls; US Steel Lake Survey East of SWPP 68th Crib 041317 Cr+.xls; Cr6+ Lk Survey 041317.pdf

Thanks Tom,
Can we post this map and data to our US Steel website?

From: Poy, Thomas
Sent: Friday, April 14, 2017 2:30 PM
To: Borries, Samuel <borries.samuel@epa.gov>; Mendez, Thomas <mendez.thomas@epa.gov>
Cc: Korleski, Christopher <korleski.christopher@epa.gov>; Henry, Timothy <henry.timothy@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

Sam/Tom: Here are Chicago's sampling results from yesterday. The current changed yesterday to a westerly direction as verified by slight increases in concentrations on the grid to the northwest. The previous day's high values at location 1G and 1 GD are a third lower.

Chicago is going out again today to sample and will be expanding the grid.

Tom

Tom Poy
Chief, Ground Water and Drinking Water Branch
USEPA - Region 5
(312) 886-5991

From: Stark, Alan [<mailto:Alan.Stark@cityofchicago.org>]
Sent: Friday, April 14, 2017 1:48 PM
To: Poy, Thomas <poy.thomas@epa.gov>; Ames, Mort <Mort.Ames@cityofchicago.org>; Murphy, Barrett <Barrett.Murphy@cityofchicago.org>; Hernandez-Tomlin, Julie <Julie.HernandezTomlin@cityofchicago.org>; Litherland, Gary <Gary.Litherland@cityofchicago.org>; Caminer, Irene <Irene.Caminer@cityofchicago.org>; Putz, Andrea <Andrea.Putz@cityofchicago.org>; dave McMillan <dave.mcmillan@illinois.gov>; Wheat, Christopher <Christopher.Wheat@cityofchicago.org>; McMillan, Dave <DAVE.MCMILLAN@illinois.gov>; Kelly, Mike <Mike.Kelly@cityofchicago.org>; Schwer, Patrick <Patrick.Schwer@cityofchicago.org>; Skiadopoulos, Frank <Frank.Skiadopoulos@cityofchicago.org>; O'Malley, Mark <Mark.OMalley@cityofchicago.org>; Salinas, Eduardo <Eduardo.Salinas@cityofchicago.org>; Litherland, Gary <Gary.Litherland@cityofchicago.org>; Saleh, Hassen <Hassen.Saleh@cityofchicago.org>; Bresnahan, William <William.Bresnahan@cityofchicago.org>
Cc: Mary Hollingsworth <MHolling@idem.IN.gov>; Korleski, Christopher <korleski.christopher@epa.gov>; feighnerb@michigan.gov
Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

All

Attached are the results from yesterday 4/13/17

- All Samples collected at SWPP from SWPP's 68th Street Crib Complex are within normal range.

- The Lake Survey (see attached) consisted of 22 sample locations and 27 samples. Five samples with the suffix of D indicates a Dip control sample to validate pumped sample.
- Location 1G and 1GD, yesterday showed results an order of magnitude higher than all other results at 2.0 and 1.6 respectively. This location is one of the nearest sampling locations (about a mile) near the spill. BUT yesterday's results were lower at this location at 0.6 and 0.62 respectively.
- Other grid locations showed elevated results below 0.7; thereby, creating a contaminant plume from the point source at 1G.
- The plume appeared to move northwest as predicted following the lake currents from east to west
- Appears the concentration is being diluted

Today 4/14/17

- IEPA was notified by phone this morning
- It was determined to again expand the grid based Lake Survey sampling to verify and the plume to make sure the plume is diluting and continue sampling SWPP's Crib every two hours.
- NOAA Lake Michigan flow current model shows THE CURRENT IS EAST TO WEST.
- TESTING WILL CONTINUE

Thanks

Alan

From: Stark, Alan

Sent: Thursday, April 13, 2017 1:22 PM

To: 'Poy, Thomas'; Ames, Mort; Murphy, Barrett; Hernandez-Tomlin, Julie; Litherland, Gary; Caminer, Irene; Putz, Andrea; 'dave McMillan'; Wheat, Christopher; 'McMillan, Dave'; Kelly, Mike; Schwer, Patrick; Skiadopoulos, Frank; O'Malley, Mark; Salinas, Eduardo; Litherland, Gary; Saleh, Hassen; Bresnahan, William

Cc: 'Mary Hollingsworth'; 'Korleski, Christopher'; 'feighnerb@michigan.gov'

Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

All

Attached are the results from yesterday

- All Samples collected at SWPP from SWPP's 68th Street Crib Complex are within normal range.
- The Lake Survey (see attached) consisted of 16 sample locations and 19 samples. Three samples with the suffix of D indicates a Dip control sample to validate pumped sample.
- Location 1G and 1GD show results an order of magnitude higher than all other results at 2.0 and 1.6 respectively. This location is one of the nearest sampling locations (about a mile) near the spill.

Today

- IEPA and USEPA were notified by phone this morning
- It was determined to expand the grid based Lake Survey sampling to verify and follow the possible plume and continue sampling SWPP's Crib every two hours.
- NOAA Lake Michigan flow current model shows the CURRENT HAS REVERSED from the previous two days of west to east, NOW THE CURRENT IS EAST TO WEST.
- THEREFORE CHANGE IN DIRECTION OF PLUME TO THE WEST
- TESTING WILL CONTINUE

Thanks

Alan

Alan,

Attached are 2 excel spreadsheets with all of the results from samples received yesterday. Final reports will hopefully be sent out later today.

If you need anything else, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Nathan Trowbridge
Client Services Manager

Eurofins Eaton Analytical, Inc.
110 South Hill Street, South Bend, IN 46617
Phone: 574 472 5528
Mobile: 574 302 2590

Email: NathanTrowbridge@eurofinsUS.com
Website: <http://www.EurofinsUS.com/Eaton>

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From: Stark, Alan
Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2017 6:04 PM
To: 'Poy, Thomas'; Ames, Mort; Murphy, Barrett; Hernandez-Tomlin, Julie; Litherland, Gary; Caminer, Irene; Putz, Andrea; 'dave McMillan'; Wheat, Christopher; 'McMillan, Dave'; Kelly, Mike; Schwer, Patrick; Skiadopoulos, Frank; O'Malley, Mark; Salinas, Eduardo; Litherland, Gary; Saleh, Hassen; Bresnahan, William
Cc: 'Mary Hollingsworth'; 'Korleski, Christopher'; 'feighnerb@michigan.gov'
Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

See below highlighted, results from first ten samples (excel sheet) in agreement with our routine samples collected quarterly. Remaining results from Crib lake survey being delivered to Eurofins (as of this email) to follow. Also attached GIS plot of lake grid survey, results to follow. As stated earlier further sampling will be based on final results.

Thanks
Alan

From: Nathan Trowbridge [<mailto:NathanTrowbridge@eurofinsUS.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2017 5:30 PM
To: Stark, Alan
Subject: RE: COC Sheets

Thanks Alan,

I've attached data for the 1st 10 samples that were analyzed. The next 4, plus the ones coming in tonight should be ready by tomorrow morning. The data looks fairly steady each hour and what I saw of the next 4 was similar. I'll let you know more as soon as I have data.

If you need anything else, please let me know. I'll be here until all of the new samples are on the instrument. I'll be at home checking email after that.

Thanks,

Nathan Trowbridge

Phone: +1 574 472 5528

Mobile: +1 574 302 2590

Email: NathanTrowbridge@EurofinsUS.com

From: Stark, Alan [<mailto:Alan.Stark@cityofchicago.org>]

Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2017 6:09 PM

To: Nathan Trowbridge

Subject: COC Sheets

See attached completed COC from the morning and one from the Lake Survey that is on the way to you

Alan

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From: Stark, Alan

Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2017 12:23 PM

To: 'Poy, Thomas'; Ames, Mort; Murphy, Barrett; Hernandez-Tomlin, Julie; Litherland, Gary; Caminer, Irene; Putz, Andrea; dave McMillan; Wheat, Christopher; McMillan, Dave; Kelly, Mike; Schwer, Patrick; Skiadopoulos, Frank; O'Malley, Mark; Salinas, Eduardo; Litherland, Gary

Cc: Mary Hollingsworth; Korleski, Christopher; feighnerb@michigan.gov

Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

Thank you!

From: Poy, Thomas [mailto:poy.thomas@epa.gov]

Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2017 12:10 PM

To: Stark, Alan; Ames, Mort; Murphy, Barrett; Hernandez-Tomlin, Julie; Litherland, Gary; Caminer, Irene; Putz, Andrea; dave McMillan; Wheat, Christopher; McMillan, Dave; Kelly, Mike; Schwer, Patrick; Skiadopoulos, Frank; O'Malley, Mark; Salinas, Eduardo; Litherland, Gary

Cc: Mary Hollingsworth; Korleski, Christopher; feighnerb@michigan.gov

Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

I believe the source of the active release has been stopped and it is just residual in the outfall now.

Tom

Tom Poy

Chief, Ground Water and Drinking Water Branch

USEPA - Region 5

(312) 886-5991

From: Stark, Alan [mailto:Alan.Stark@cityofchicago.org]

Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2017 10:37 AM

To: Poy, Thomas <poy.thomas@epa.gov>; Ames, Mort <Mort.Ames@cityofchicago.org>; Murphy, Barrett <Barrett.Murphy@cityofchicago.org>; Hernandez-Tomlin, Julie <Julie.HernandezTomlin@cityofchicago.org>; Litherland, Gary <Gary.Litherland@cityofchicago.org>; Caminer, Irene <Irene.Caminer@cityofchicago.org>; Putz, Andrea <Andrea.Putz@cityofchicago.org>; dave McMillan <dave.mcmillan@illinois.gov>; Wheat, Christopher <Christopher.Wheat@cityofchicago.org>; McMillan, Dave <DAVE.MCMILLAN@Illinois.gov>; Kelly, Mike <Mike.Kelly@cityofchicago.org>; Schwer, Patrick <Patrick.Schwer@cityofchicago.org>; Skiadopoulos, Frank <Frank.Skiadopoulos@cityofchicago.org>; O'Malley, Mark <Mark.O'Malley@cityofchicago.org>; Salinas, Eduardo <Eduardo.Salinas@cityofchicago.org>; Litherland, Gary <Gary.Litherland@cityofchicago.org>

Cc: Mary Hollingsworth <MHolling@idem.IN.gov>; Korleski, Christopher <korleski.christopher@epa.gov>; feighnerb@michigan.gov

Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

Have they stopped the outfall?

From: Poy, Thomas [mailto:poy.thomas@epa.gov]

Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2017 10:35 AM

To: Stark, Alan; Ames, Mort; Murphy, Barrett; Hernandez-Tomlin, Julie; Litherland, Gary; Caminer, Irene; Putz, Andrea; dave McMillan; Wheat, Christopher; McMillan, Dave; Kelly, Mike; Schwer, Patrick; Skiadopoulos, Frank; O'Malley, Mark; Salinas, Eduardo; Litherland, Gary

Cc: Mary Hollingsworth; Korleski, Christopher; feighnerb@michigan.gov

Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

Hi Alan: No update on quantity or concentration. The sampling from yesterday was indicating that the chromium had not reached Lake Michigan. More sampling is going to be done today.

Tom

Tom Poy

Chief, Ground Water and Drinking Water Branch

USEPA - Region 5

(312) 886-5991

From: Stark, Alan [mailto:Alan.Stark@cityofchicago.org]

Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2017 10:08 AM

To: Ames, Mort <Mort.Ames@cityofchicago.org>; Murphy, Barrett <Barrett.Murphy@cityofchicago.org>; Hernandez-Tomlin, Julie <Julie.HernandezTomlin@cityofchicago.org>; Litherland, Gary <Gary.Litherland@cityofchicago.org>; Caminer, Irene <Irene.Caminer@cityofchicago.org>; Putz, Andrea <Andrea.Putz@cityofchicago.org>; Poy, Thomas <poy.thomas@epa.gov>; dave McMillan <dave.mcmillan@illinois.gov>; Wheat, Christopher <Christopher.Wheat@cityofchicago.org>; McMillan, Dave <DAVE.MCMILLAN@Illinois.gov>; Kelly, Mike <Mike.Kelly@cityofchicago.org>; Schwer, Patrick <Patrick.Schwer@cityofchicago.org>; Skiadopoulos, Frank <Frank.Skiadopoulos@cityofchicago.org>; O'Malley, Mark <Mark.OMalley@cityofchicago.org>; Salinas, Eduardo <Eduardo.Salinas@cityofchicago.org>; Litherland, Gary <Gary.Litherland@cityofchicago.org>
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Hi Tom,

Any updates, release quantity and concentration?

Lake currents still counter clockwise. Hourly samples from SWPP's 68th Street Crib complex in route to Eurofins in South Bend. Lake Survey underway, samples will be driven to Eurofins once they boat gets back. Results will be forwarded as I get them. Crib sampling now every two hours lab results will dictated further sampling and possible mitigation.

Thanks
Alan

From: Stark, Alan

Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2017 1:44 AM

To: Ames, Mort; Murphy, Barrett; Hernandez-Tomlin, Julie; Litherland, Gary; Caminer, Irene; Putz, Andrea; Poy, Thomas; dave McMillan; Wheat, Christopher
Subject: Fwd: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

Tom
Thank you for the update.
We are collecting hourly at SWPP crib, driving samples to Euro fins this morning, results later afternoon. Lake survey in morning, drive samples in afternoon, results late night. I will forward results to you and Dave as I get them.

Thanks
Alan

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

----- Original message -----

From: "Poy, Thomas" <poy.thomas@epa.gov>

Date: 4/11/17 11:40 PM (GMT-06:00)

To: "Stark, Alan" <Alan.Stark@cityofchicago.org>, Dave McMillan <dave.mcmillan@illinois.gov>, Mary Hollingsworth <MHolling@idem.IN.gov>, feighnerb@michigan.gov

Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

The last that I heard, they were still investigating the cause and volume of the release.

A set of samples were collected before dark. Samples were taken upstream of the outfall, at the outfall, and downstream of the outfall. Two samples were also taken at the nearby Indiana American Water intake and wet well. A subset of samples, including the samples taken at the water intake, were sent to an on-site lab for rapid turnaround. The highest concentration of in the samples was detected at the outfall was 949 ppb. The samples taken at the American Water intake and wet well were non-detects for total chromium. The rest of the samples will be sent off to a lab in Valparaiso later tonight to be run for hexavalent chromium. Overnight, samples will be taken at the outfall every 2 hours and another full round of samples will be taken tomorrow morning

Tom Poy
Chief, Ground Water and Drinking Water Branch
USEPA - Region 5
(312) 886-5991

From: Stark, Alan [<mailto:Alan.Stark@cityofchicago.org>]
Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 8:02 PM
To: Poy, Thomas <poy.thomas@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

Any updates?

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

----- Original message -----

From: "Poy, Thomas" <poy.thomas@epa.gov>
Date: 4/11/17 2:53 PM (GMT-06:00)
To: "Stark, Alan" <Alan.Stark@cityofchicago.org>
Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

Alan: Thanks for the information. I'm sharing what you're doing with the OSCs at the site.

Tom

Tom Poy
Chief, Ground Water and Drinking Water Branch
USEPA - Region 5
(312) 886-5991

From: Stark, Alan [<mailto:Alan.Stark@cityofchicago.org>]
Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 2:19 PM
To: McMillan, Dave <DAVE.MCMILLAN@Illinois.gov>; Poy, Thomas <poy.thomas@epa.gov>
Cc: Murphy, Barrett <Barrett.Murphy@cityofchicago.org>; Hernandez-Tomlin, Julie <Julie.HernandezTomlin@cityofchicago.org>; Putz, Andrea <Andrea.Putz@cityofchicago.org>; Kelly, Mike <Mike.Kelly@cityofchicago.org>; Schwer, Patrick <Patrick.Schwer@cityofchicago.org>; O'Malley, Mark <Mark.O'Malley@cityofchicago.org>; Salinas, Eduardo <Eduardo.Salinas@cityofchicago.org>; Skiadopoulos, Frank <Frank.Skiadopoulos@cityofchicago.org>; Litherland, Gary <Gary.Litherland@cityofchicago.org>; Caminer, Irene

<Irene.Camner@cityofchicago.org>

Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

Dave and Tom

Per our discussion, NOAA currents showing counter clockwise current in Lake Michigan and winds out of the west. For precaution we will sample for Cr6+ at SWPP Crib hourly once we get the sample bottles from the lab. Tomorrow, out of an abundance of caution, we will do a grid sampling of Lake Michigan, quarter mile off shore near Gary Indiana for Cr6+. Any questions please call me anytime 312-617-4233.

Thanks
Alan

From: McMillan, Dave [mailto:DAVE.MCMILLAN@Illinois.gov]

Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 1:53 PM

To: Stark, Alan

Subject: FW: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

Additional information per our discussion.

From: Lauder, Roger

Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 1:50 PM

To: McMillan, Dave <DAVE.MCMILLAN@Illinois.gov>; Cook, David <DAVID.COOK@Illinois.gov>

Subject: FW: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

FYI

From: Borries, Samuel [mailto:borries.samuel@epa.gov]

Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 1:48 PM

To: Lauder, Roger

Cc: El-Zein, Jason

Subject: [External] FW: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

Roger,

Here is the ER notification report with the current information.

From: Thomas, Craig

Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 1:46 PM

To: R5 ER Notification List <R5_ER_Notification_List@epa.gov>

Cc: Maguire, Andrew <maguire.andrew@epa.gov>; Beslow, Mike <beslow.mike@epa.gov>; Lippert, Jeffrey <lippert.jeffrey@epa.gov>; Behnke, Kristina <behnke.kristina@epa.gov>; Mendez, Thomas <mendez.thomas@epa.gov>

Subject: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

ER Notification #1 (Initial) – U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release, Portage, IN

Region 5 ER Notification #1 (Initial): NRC# 1175399, U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release, Portage, IN

Report as of: 09/23/16 at 13:45 CDT

Overview: On 4/11/17 at approximately 09:30 central time, U.S Steel Corporation discovered a green discoloration in the water near an outfall at their facility in Portage, IN, discharging into Burns Waterway (aka

Burns Ditch). U.S. Steel reported this to the National Response Center (NRC #1175399). OSC Thomas contacted the reporting party regarding this incident, and was told the facility was conducting an investigation to determine what it was. OSC Thomas then contacted OSCs Beslow and Mendez, who were nearby, to investigate as well.

Upon arriving at the scene, OSCs Beslow and Mendez met with U.S. Steel's environmental manager and were told that the facility had determined the material was hexavalent chrome. This information was immediately shared with United States Coast Guard personnel, who were also responding.

State, Local, and other Federal Agency Action: The USCG, and IDEM have arrived on scene. EPA has notified local water intakes in Gary, East Chicago, and Ogden Dunes. Indiana American Water in Ogden Dunes has shut down their water intake and has approximately 4 hours of reserves.

EPA has also notified U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Department of the Interior and the National Park Service.

EPA Actions: EPA OSC Andy Maguire and START are mobilizing to the scene to conduct water sampling. Investigations are under way to determine how the hexavalent chrome released, the amount of hexavalent chrome released and the extent of the release into the waterway.

The facility has minimized the amount of water it is using to essential systems only to reduce through put.

Media Interest: No media interest at this time.

EPA Region 5 OSC contact: Andy Maguire, 312-758-8672



Craig Thomas
US EPA Region 5 On-Scene Coordinator
Emergency Response Branch
77 W. Jackson Blvd., SE-5J
Chicago, IL 60604
312-886-5907 office
312-802-9637 cell



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Poy, Thomas

From: Poy, Thomas
Sent: Friday, April 14, 2017 3:42 PM
To: 'Stark, Alan'
Cc: Mendez, Thomas; Borries, Samuel
Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

Alan: EPA's OSCs are asking:

- 1) Are there qualifiers to the data?
- 2) Can they post the map (giving Chicago credit) to the OSC US Steel website? https://response.epa.gov/site/site_profile.aspx?site_id=12130

Tom Poy
Chief, Ground Water and Drinking Water Branch
USEPA - Region 5
(312) 886-5991

From: Stark, Alan [mailto:Alan.Stark@cityofchicago.org]
Sent: Friday, April 14, 2017 1:48 PM
To: Poy, Thomas <poy.thomas@epa.gov>; Ames, Mort <Mort.Ames@cityofchicago.org>; Murphy, Barrett <Barrett.Murphy@cityofchicago.org>; Hernandez-Tomlin, Julie <Julie.HernandezTomlin@cityofchicago.org>; Litherland, Gary <Gary.Litherland@cityofchicago.org>; Caminer, Irene <Irene.Camner@cityofchicago.org>; Putz, Andrea <Andrea.Putz@cityofchicago.org>; dave McMillan <dave.mcmillan@illinois.gov>; Wheat, Christopher <Christopher.Wheat@cityofchicago.org>; McMillan, Dave <DAVE.MCMILLAN@Illinois.gov>; Kelly, Mike <Mike.Kelly@cityofchicago.org>; Schwer, Patrick <Patrick.Schwer@cityofchicago.org>; Skiadopoulos, Frank <Frank.Skiadopoulos@cityofchicago.org>; O'Malley, Mark <Mark.OMalley@cityofchicago.org>; Salinas, Eduardo <Eduardo.Salinas@cityofchicago.org>; Litherland, Gary <Gary.Litherland@cityofchicago.org>; Saleh, Hassen <Hassen.Saleh@cityofchicago.org>; Bresnahan, William <William.Bresnahan@cityofchicago.org>
Cc: Mary Hollingsworth <MHolling@idem.IN.gov>; Korleski, Christopher <korleski.christopher@epa.gov>; feighnerb@michigan.gov
Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

All

Attached are the results from yesterday 4/13/17

- All Samples collected at SWPP from SWPP's 68th Street Crib Complex are within normal range.
- The Lake Survey (see attached) consisted of 22 sample locations and 27 samples. Five samples with the suffix of D indicates a Dip control sample to validate pumped sample.
- Location 1G and 1GD, yesterday showed results an order of magnitude higher than all other results at 2.0 and 1.6 respectively. This location is one of the nearest sampling locations (about a mile) near the spill. BUT yesterday's results were lower at this location at 0.6 and 0.62 respectively.
- Other grid locations showed elevated results below 0.7; thereby, creating a contaminant plume from the point source at 1G.
- The plume appeared to move northwest as predicted following the lake currents from east to west
- Appears the concentration is being diluted

Today 4/14/17

- IEPA was notified by phone this morning

- It was determined to again expand the grid based Lake Survey sampling to verify and the plume to make sure the plume is diluting and continue sampling SWPP's Crib every two hours.
- NOAA Lake Michigan flow current model shows THE CURRENT IS EAST TO WEST.
- TESTING WILL CONTINUE

Thanks
Alan

From: Stark, Alan

Sent: Thursday, April 13, 2017 1:22 PM

To: 'Poy, Thomas'; Ames, Mort; Murphy, Barrett; Hernandez-Tomlin, Julie; Litherland, Gary; Caminer, Irene; Putz, Andrea; 'dave McMillan'; Wheat, Christopher; 'McMillan, Dave'; Kelly, Mike; Schwer, Patrick; Skiadopoulos, Frank; O'Malley, Mark; Salinas, Eduardo; Litherland, Gary; Saleh, Hassen; Bresnahan, William

Cc: 'Mary Hollingsworth'; 'Korleski, Christopher'; 'feighnerb@michigan.gov'

Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

All

Attached are the results from yesterday

- All Samples collected at SWPP from SWPP's 68th Street Crib Complex are within normal range.
- The Lake Survey (see attached) consisted of 16 sample locations and 19 samples. Three samples with the suffix of D indicates a Dip control sample to validate pumped sample.
- Location 1G and 1GD show results an order of magnitude higher than all other results at 2.0 and 1.6 respectively. This location is one of the nearest sampling locations (about a mile) near the spill.

Today

- IEPA and USEPA were notified by phone this morning
- It was determined to expand the grid based Lake Survey sampling to verify and follow the possible plume and continue sampling SWPP's Crib every two hours.
- NOAA Lake Michigan flow current model shows the CURRENT HAS REVERSED from the previous two days of west to east, NOW THE CURRENT IS EAST TO WEST.
- THEREFORE CHANGE IN DIRECTION OF PLUME TO THE WEST
- TESTING WILL CONTINUE

Thanks
Alan

Alan,

Attached are 2 excel spreadsheets with all of the results from samples received yesterday. Final reports will hopefully be sent out later today.

If you need anything else, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Nathan Trowbridge

Client Services Manager

Eurofins Eaton Analytical, Inc.

110 South Hill Street, South Bend, IN 46617

Phone: 574 472 5528

Mobile: 574 302 2590

Email: NathanTrowbridge@eurofinsUS.com

Website: <http://www.EurofinsUS.com/Eaton>

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From: Stark, Alan

Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2017 6:04 PM

To: 'Poy, Thomas'; Ames, Mort; Murphy, Barrett; Hernandez-Tomlin, Julie; Litherland, Gary; Caminer, Irene; Putz, Andrea; 'dave McMillan'; Wheat, Christopher; 'McMillan, Dave'; Kelly, Mike; Schwer, Patrick; Skiadopoulos, Frank; O'Malley, Mark; Salinas, Eduardo; Litherland, Gary; Saleh, Hassen; Bresnahan, William

Cc: 'Mary Hollingsworth'; 'Korleski, Christopher'; 'feighnerb@michigan.gov'

Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

See below highlighted, results from first ten samples (excel sheet) in agreement with our routine samples collected quarterly. Remaining results from Crib lake survey being delivered to Eurofins (as of this email) to follow. Also attached GIS plot of lake grid survey, results to follow. As stated earlier further sampling will be based on final results.

Thanks

Alan

From: Nathan Trowbridge [<mailto:NathanTrowbridge@eurofinsUS.com>]

Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2017 5:30 PM

To: Stark, Alan

Subject: RE: COC Sheets

Thanks Alan,

I've attached data for the 1st 10 samples that were analyzed. The next 4, plus the ones coming in tonight should be ready by tomorrow morning. The data looks fairly steady each hour and what I saw of the next 4 was similar. I'll let you know more as soon as I have data.

If you need anything else, please let me know. I'll be here until all of the new samples are on the instrument. I'll be at home checking email after that.

Thanks,

Nathan Trowbridge

Phone: +1 574 472 5528

Mobile: +1 574 302 2590

Email: NathanTrowbridge@EurofinsUS.com

From: Stark, Alan [<mailto:Alan.Stark@cityofchicago.org>]
Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2017 6:09 PM
To: Nathan Trowbridge
Subject: COC Sheets

See attached completed COC from the morning and one from the Lake Survey that is on the way to you

Alan

This e-mail, and any attachments thereto, is intended only for use by the addressee(s) named herein and may contain legally privileged and/or confidential information. If you are not the intended recipient of this e-mail (or the person responsible for delivering this document to the intended recipient), you are hereby notified that any dissemination, distribution, printing or copying of this e-mail, and any attachment thereto, is strictly prohibited. If you have received this e-mail in error, please respond to the individual sending the message, and permanently delete the original and any copy of any e-mail and printout thereof.

Notify us [here](#) to report this email as spam.

From: Stark, Alan
Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2017 12:23 PM
To: 'Poy, Thomas'; Ames, Mort; Murphy, Barrett; Hernandez-Tomlin, Julie; Litherland, Gary; Caminer, Irene; Putz, Andrea; dave McMillan; Wheat, Christopher; McMillan, Dave; Kelly, Mike; Schwer, Patrick; Skiadopoulos, Frank; O'Malley, Mark; Salinas, Eduardo; Litherland, Gary
Cc: Mary Hollingsworth; Korleski, Christopher; feighnerb@michigan.gov
Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

Thank you!

From: Poy, Thomas [<mailto:poy.thomas@epa.gov>]
Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2017 12:10 PM
To: Stark, Alan; Ames, Mort; Murphy, Barrett; Hernandez-Tomlin, Julie; Litherland, Gary; Caminer, Irene; Putz, Andrea; dave McMillan; Wheat, Christopher; McMillan, Dave; Kelly, Mike; Schwer, Patrick; Skiadopoulos, Frank; O'Malley, Mark; Salinas, Eduardo; Litherland, Gary
Cc: Mary Hollingsworth; Korleski, Christopher; feighnerb@michigan.gov
Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

I believe the source of the active release has been stopped and it is just residual in the outfall now.

Tom

Tom Poy
Chief, Ground Water and Drinking Water Branch
USEPA - Region 5

(312) 886-5991

From: Stark, Alan [<mailto:Alan.Stark@cityofchicago.org>]

Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2017 10:37 AM

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To: "Stark, Alan" <Alan.Stark@cityofchicago.org>
Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

Alan: Thanks for the information. I'm sharing what you're doing with the OSCs at the site.

Tom

Tom Poy
Chief, Ground Water and Drinking Water Branch
USEPA - Region 5
(312) 886-5991

From: Stark, Alan [<mailto:Alan.Stark@cityofchicago.org>]
Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 2:19 PM
To: McMillan, Dave <DAVE.MCMILLAN@Illinois.gov>; Poy, Thomas <poy.thomas@epa.gov>
Cc: Murphy, Barrett <Barrett.Murphy@cityofchicago.org>; Hernandez-Tomlin, Julie <Julie.HernandezTomlin@cityofchicago.org>; Putz, Andrea <Andrea.Putz@cityofchicago.org>; Kelly, Mike <Mike.Kelly@cityofchicago.org>; Schwer, Patrick <Patrick.Schwer@cityofchicago.org>; O'Malley, Mark <Mark.OMalley@cityofchicago.org>; Salinas, Eduardo <Eduardo.Salinas@cityofchicago.org>; Skiadopoulos, Frank <Frank.Skiadopoulos@cityofchicago.org>; Litherland, Gary <Gary.Litherland@cityofchicago.org>; Caminer, Irene <Irene.Caminer@cityofchicago.org>
Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

Dave and Tom

Per our discussion, NOAA currents showing counter clockwise current in Lake Michigan and winds out of the west. For precaution we will sample for Cr6+ at SWPP Crib hourly once we get the sample bottles from the lab. Tomorrow, out of an abundance of caution, we will do a grid sampling of Lake Michigan, quarter mile off shore near Gary Indiana for Cr6+. Any questions please call me anytime 312-617-4233.

Thanks
Alan

From: McMillan, Dave [<mailto:DAVE.MCMILLAN@Illinois.gov>]
Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 1:53 PM

To: Stark, Alan

Subject: FW: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

Additional information per our discussion.

From: Lauder, Roger

Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 1:50 PM

To: McMillan, Dave <DAVE.MCMILLAN@Illinois.gov>; Cook, David <DAVID.COOK@Illinois.gov>

Subject: FW: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

FYI

From: Borries, Samuel [mailto:borries.samuel@epa.gov]

Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 1:48 PM

To: Lauder, Roger

Cc: El-Zein, Jason

Subject: [External] FW: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

Roger,

Here is the ER notification report with the current information.

From: Thomas, Craig

Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 1:46 PM

To: R5 ER Notification List <R5_ER_Notification_List@epa.gov>

Cc: Maguire, Andrew <maguire.andrew@epa.gov>; Beslow, Mike <beslow.mike@epa.gov>; Lippert, Jeffrey

<lippert.jeffrey@epa.gov>; Behnke, Kristina <behnke.kristina@epa.gov>; Mendez, Thomas <mendez.thomas@epa.gov>

Subject: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

ER Notification #1 (Initial) – U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release, Portage, IN

Region 5 ER Notification #1 (Initial): NRC# 1175399, U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release, Portage, IN

Report as of: 09/23/16 at 13:45 CDT

Overview: On 4/11/17 at approximately 09:30 central time, U.S Steel Corporation discovered a green discoloration in the water near an outfall at their facility in Portage, IN, discharging into Burns Waterway (aka Burns Ditch). U.S. Steel reported this to the National Response Center (NRC #1175399). OSC Thomas contacted the reporting party regarding this incident, and was told the facility was conducting an investigation to determine what it was. OSC Thomas then contacted OSCs Beslow and Mendez, who were nearby, to investigate as well.

Upon arriving at the scene, OSCs Beslow and Mendez met with U.S Steel's environmental manager and were told that the facility had determined the material was hexavalent chrome. This information was immediately shared with United States Coast Guard personnel, who were also responding.

State, Local, and other Federal Agency Action: The USCG, and IDEM have arrived on scene. EPA has notified local water intakes in Gary, East Chicago, and Ogden Dunes. Indiana American Water in Ogden Dunes has shut down their water intake and has approximately 4 hours of reserves.

EPA has also notified U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Department of the Interior and the National Park Service.

EPA Actions: EPA OSC Andy Maguire and START are mobilizing to the scene to conduct water sampling. Investigations are under way to determine how the hexavalent chrome released, the amount of hexavalent chrome released and the extent of the release into the waterway.

The facility has minimized the amount of water it is using to essential systems only to reduce through put.

Media Interest: No media interest at this time.

EPA Region 5 OSC contact: Andy Maguire, 312-758-8672



Craig Thomas
US EPA Region 5 On-Scene Coordinator
Emergency Response Branch
77 W. Jackson Blvd., SE-5J
Chicago, IL 60604
312-886-5907 office
312-802-9637 cell



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Poy, Thomas

From: Poy, Thomas
Sent: Friday, April 14, 2017 3:45 PM
To: Porter, Andrea
Subject: FW: US Steel Map/Conc
Attachments: US Steel Lake Survey Grid Conc.docx

Tom Poy
Chief, Ground Water and Drinking Water Branch
USEPA - Region 5
(312) 886-5991

From: Poy, Thomas
Sent: Friday, April 14, 2017 3:45 PM
To: Borries, Samuel <borries.samuel@epa.gov>; Mendez, Thomas <mendez.thomas@epa.gov>; Korleski, Christopher <korleski.christopher@epa.gov>; Timothy Henry - EPA <Henry.Timothy@epa.gov>
Subject: US Steel Map/Conc

I created a rough map of the Chicago grid locations and concentrations that make it easier to see the change from 4/12 to 4/13.

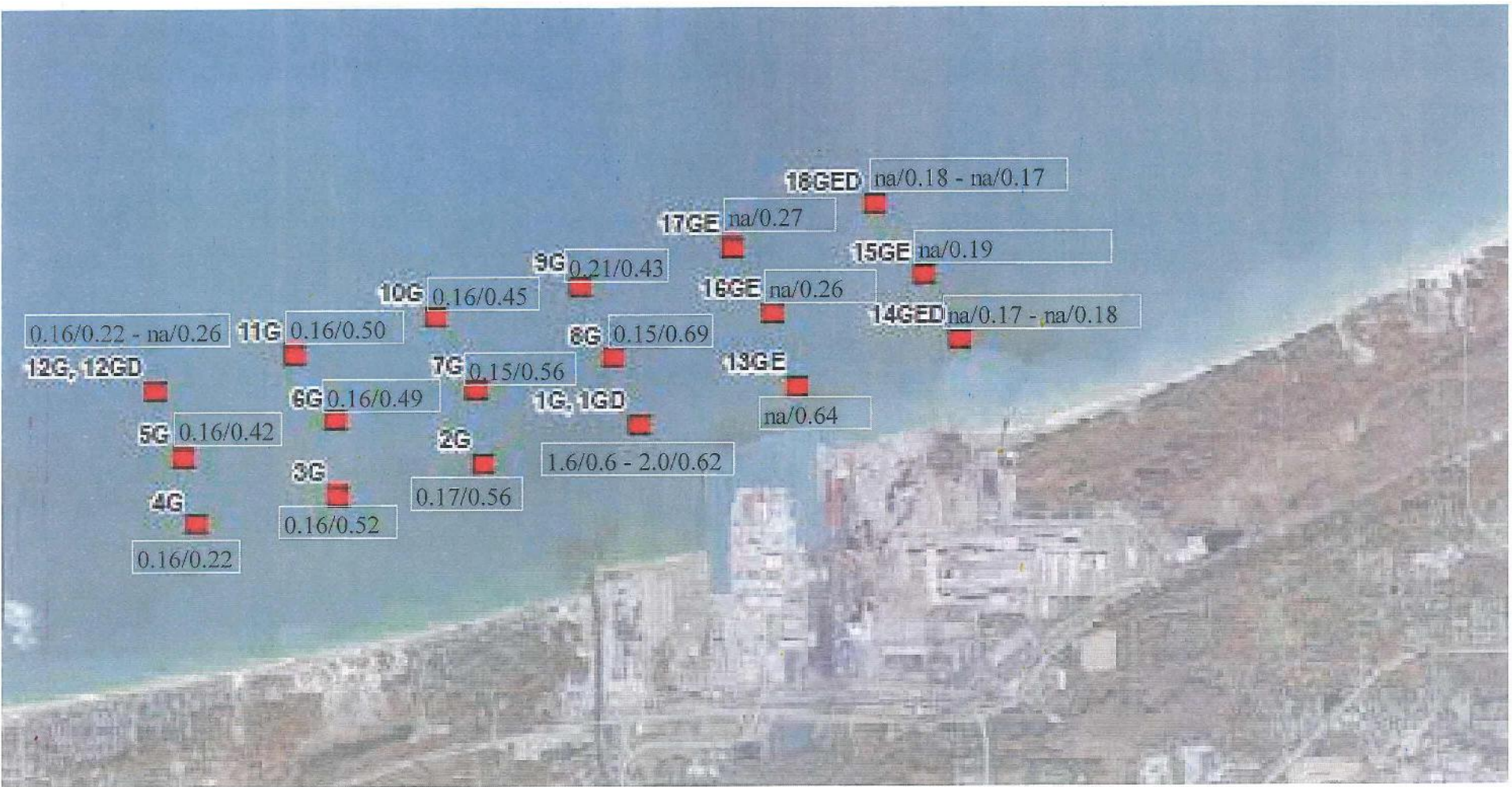
Tom Poy
Chief, Ground Water and Drinking Water Branch
USEPA - Region 5
(312) 886-5991

Poy, Thomas

From: Poy, Thomas
Sent: Friday, April 14, 2017 3:45 PM
To: Borries, Samuel; Mendez, Thomas; Korleski, Christopher; Timothy Henry - EPA
Subject: US Steel Map/Conc
Attachments: US Steel Lake Survey Grid Conc.docx

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Tom Poy
Chief, Ground Water and Drinking Water Branch
USEPA - Region 5
(312) 886-5991



Poy, Thomas

From: Ribordy, Michael
Sent: Monday, April 17, 2017 9:31 AM
To: Poy, Thomas
Subject: FW: US Steel Map/Conc
Attachments: US Steel Lake Survey Grid Conc.docx

Tom,
Could you provide a little more information on the city data and what we're seeing. What units are we using, is it hex chrome or total, does a range indicate multiple samples from that location, na – not sampled, all water samples...

Thanks

From: Borries, Samuel
Sent: Monday, April 17, 2017 8:57 AM
To: Ribordy, Michael <ribordy.mike@epa.gov>; Maguire, Andrew <maguire.andrew@epa.gov>; Behnke, Kristina <behnke.kristina@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: US Steel Map/Conc

FYI

From: Poy, Thomas
Sent: Monday, April 17, 2017 7:58 AM
To: Borries, Samuel; Mendez, Thomas; Korleski, Christopher; Henry, Timothy
Subject: US Steel Map/Conc

I created a rough map of the Chicago grid locations and concentrations that make it easier to see the change from 4/12 to 4/13.

Tom Poy
Chief, Ground Water and Drinking Water Branch
USEPA - Region 5
(312) 886-5991

Poy, Thomas

From: Poy, Thomas
Sent: Monday, April 17, 2017 9:40 AM
To: Ribordy, Michael
Subject: RE: US Steel Map/Conc

Mike: It's hex chromium; the numbers are "4/12 Cr6 conc" / "4/13 Cr6 conc"
na = not sampled

where there are two pairs of numbers (e.g., 0.16/0.22 - na/0.26) these are samples taken at the same location: the first pair was taken from the ship's sampling port – the second pair is a dip sample all water samples

Tom Poy
Chief, Ground Water and Drinking Water Branch
USEPA - Region 5
(312) 886-5991

From: Ribordy, Michael
Sent: Monday, April 17, 2017 9:31 AM
To: Poy, Thomas <poy.thomas@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: US Steel Map/Conc

Tom,
Could you provide a little more information on the city data and what we're seeing. What units are we using, is it hex chrome or total, does a range indicate multiple samples from that location, na – not sampled, all water samples...

Thanks

From: Borries, Samuel
Sent: Monday, April 17, 2017 8:57 AM
To: Ribordy, Michael <ribordy.mike@epa.gov>; Maguire, Andrew <maguire.andrew@epa.gov>; Behnke, Kristina <behnke.kristina@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: US Steel Map/Conc

FYI

From: Poy, Thomas
Sent: Monday, April 17, 2017 7:58 AM
To: Borries, Samuel; Mendez, Thomas; Korleski, Christopher; Henry, Timothy
Subject: US Steel Map/Conc

I created a rough map of the Chicago grid locations and concentrations that make it easier to see the change from 4/12 to 4/13.

Tom Poy
Chief, Ground Water and Drinking Water Branch
USEPA - Region 5
(312) 886-5991

From: Bassler, Rachel
Sent: Friday, April 14, 2017 11:23 AM
To: Poy, Thomas <poy.thomas@epa.gov>
Cc: Maraldo, Dean <Maraldo.Dean@epa.gov>; Bair, Rita <bair.rita@epa.gov>; Bahr, Ryan <bahr.ryan@epa.gov>; Kuefler, Patrick <kuefler.patrick@epa.gov>; Kelley, Jeff <kelley.jeff@epa.gov>; Korleski, Christopher <korleski.christopher@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Northwest Indiana Times Question - chemical spill

Thanks Dean and Tom. I continue to receive questions on whether there is an action level for hexavalent chromium and if 2 ppb is above that level? I drafted a statement to share with interested reporters based on your responses. Thoughts?

Statement on Hexavalent Chromium at U.S. Steel chemical spill

EPA has a national drinking water standard for total chromium of 100 parts per billion. The maximum contaminant level for total chromium includes both trivalent chromium and hexavalent chromium of 100 ug/L or 100 parts per billion.

EPA does not have a hexavalent chromium standard; however, EPA is currently evaluating health effects data to determine a hexavalent chromium maximum contaminant level is needed.

Preliminary data suggests that hexavalent chromium from the spill is not present near drinking water intakes.

For additional information on chromium drinking water standards, please visit our website:

<https://www.epa.gov/dwstandardsregulations/chromium-drinking-water>

Rachel Bassler
Press Officer
U.S. EPA Region 5
bassler.rachel@epa.gov
p: 312-886-7159
c: 312-914-3393

From: Poy, Thomas
Sent: Thursday, April 13, 2017 6:51 PM
To: Bassler, Rachel <Bassler.Rachel@epa.gov>
Cc: Maraldo, Dean <Maraldo.Dean@epa.gov>; Bair, Rita <bair.rita@epa.gov>; Bahr, Ryan <bahr.ryan@epa.gov>; Kuefler, Patrick <kuefler.patrick@epa.gov>; Kelley, Jeff <kelley.jeff@epa.gov>; Korleski, Christopher <korleski.christopher@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: Northwest Indiana Times Question - chemical spill

Dean is correct. There is an MCL for Total Chromium, which includes both Trivalent Chromium and Hexavalent Chromium, of 100 ug/L or 100 ppb. Trivalent Chromium and Hexavalent Chromium readily convert to one another. There is no MCL for Hexavalent Chromium. EPA is evaluating the health effects data to determine whether the Total Chromium MCL needs to be modified or a Hexavalent Chromium MCL is needed.

Tom Poy
Chief, Ground and Drinking Water Branch
USEPA - Region 5

(312) 886-5991

On Apr 13, 2017, at 5:21 PM, Bassler, Rachel <Bassler.Rachel@epa.gov> wrote:

All – the reporter is ping – any way we can get an answer for the first question? Does this website explain it? <https://www.epa.gov/dwstandardsregulations/chromium-drinking-water>

Question: Does EPA have an allowable limit for hexavalent chromium? Is 2,231 ug/L exceptionally high?

Rachel Bassler
Press Officer
U.S. EPA Region 5
bassler.rachel@epa.gov
p: 312-886-7159
c: 312-914-3393

From: Maraldo, Dean
Sent: Thursday, April 13, 2017 3:59 PM
To: Bassler, Rachel <Bassler.Rachel@epa.gov>
Cc: Poy, Thomas <poy.thomas@epa.gov>; Bair, Rita <bair.rita@epa.gov>; Bahr, Ryan <bahr.ryan@epa.gov>; Kuefler, Patrick <kuefler.patrick@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Northwest Indiana Times Question

Rachel: re question 1 - I believe there is a national drinking water standard for total chromium of 100 ppb. I don't believe there is a hex chromium standard. So, yes, 2,231 ug/l would exceed the primary standard for drinking water. I'll defer to our drinking water program (Tom or Rita?)

Question 2: I am not aware of any EPA enforcement at this facility. At least not for NPDES-related violations. State issued informal enforcement actions back in 2012-13. I'm cc'ing Ryan and Pat to see if they have any memory of NPDES enforcement at US Steel in Portage.

From: Bassler, Rachel
Sent: Thursday, April 13, 2017 3:34 PM
To: Maraldo, Dean <Maraldo.Dean@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Northwest Indiana Times Question

Hi Dean,

For the second question, is there a database we can point the reporter to?

Thanks,
Rachel

Rachel Bassler
Press Officer
U.S. EPA Region 5
bassler.rachel@epa.gov

p: 312-886-7159
c: 312-914-3393

From: Ribordy, Michael
Sent: Thursday, April 13, 2017 3:30 PM
To: Bassler, Rachel <Bassler.Rachel@epa.gov>
Cc: Maraldo, Dean <Maraldo.Dean@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Northwest Indiana Times Question

Rachel,
Talk with Dean Maraldo in Water. He should at least be able to help with question 1 and probably 2.

From: Bassler, Rachel
Sent: Thursday, April 13, 2017 2:30 PM
To: Ribordy, Michael <ribordy.mike@epa.gov>
Subject: Northwest Indiana Times Question

Hi Mike,

Do you know who the best person to answer these questions would be?

Does EPA have an allowable limit for hexavalent chromium? Is 2,231 ug/L exceptionally high?

Has the EPA conducted any enforcement activities in the past for U.S. Steel conducted controlled spills? I was told EPA ordered U.S. Steel to stop at some point. Can you point me to documents on EPA's website relating to this?

Poy, Thomas

From: Stark, Alan <Alan.Stark@cityofchicago.org>
Sent: Monday, April 17, 2017 12:31 PM
To: Poy, Thomas
Cc: Mendez, Thomas; Borries, Samuel; Murphy, Barrett; Hernandez-Tomlin, Julie; Litherland, Gary; Ames, Mort; Wheat, Christopher
Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN
Attachments: QAQC of all sample analysis collected for Cr6+ and submitted from 041117 through 041417.pdf

Tom

Attached are the official report with QA/QC. Also please post from all information we submitted. Any questions please call me 312-617-4233

Thanks
Alan

From: Poy, Thomas [mailto:poy.thomas@epa.gov]
Sent: Friday, April 14, 2017 3:42 PM
To: Stark, Alan
Cc: Mendez, Thomas; Borries, Samuel
Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

Alan: EPA's OSCs are asking:

- 1) Are there qualifiers to the data?
- 2) Can they post the map (giving Chicago credit) to the OSC US Steel website? https://response.epa.gov/site/site_profile.aspx?site_id=12130

Tom Poy
Chief, Ground Water and Drinking Water Branch
USEPA - Region 5
(312) 886-5991

From: Stark, Alan [mailto:Alan.Stark@cityofchicago.org]
Sent: Friday, April 14, 2017 1:48 PM
To: Poy, Thomas <poy.thomas@epa.gov>; Ames, Mort <Mort.Ames@cityofchicago.org>; Murphy, Barrett <Barrett.Murphy@cityofchicago.org>; Hernandez-Tomlin, Julie <Julie.HernandezTomlin@cityofchicago.org>; Litherland, Gary <Gary.Litherland@cityofchicago.org>; Caminer, Irene <Irene.Caminer@cityofchicago.org>; Putz, Andrea <Andrea.Putz@cityofchicago.org>; dave McMillan <dave.mcmillan@illinois.gov>; Wheat, Christopher <Christopher.Wheat@cityofchicago.org>; McMillan, Dave <DAVE.MCMILLAN@Illinois.gov>; Kelly, Mike <Mike.Kelly@cityofchicago.org>; Schwer, Patrick <Patrick.Schwer@cityofchicago.org>; Skiadopoulos, Frank <Frank.Skiadopoulos@cityofchicago.org>; O'Malley, Mark <Mark.OMalley@cityofchicago.org>; Salinas, Eduardo <Eduardo.Salinas@cityofchicago.org>; Litherland, Gary <Gary.Litherland@cityofchicago.org>; Saleh, Hassen <Hassen.Saleh@cityofchicago.org>; Bresnahan, William <William.Bresnahan@cityofchicago.org>
Cc: Mary Hollingsworth <MHolling@idem.IN.gov>; Korleski, Christopher <korleski.christopher@epa.gov>; feighnerb@michigan.gov
Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

All

Attached are the results from yesterday 4/13/17

- All Samples collected at SWPP from SWPP's 68th Street Crib Complex are within normal range.
- The Lake Survey (see attached) consisted of 22 sample locations and 27 samples. Five samples with the suffix of D indicates a Dip control sample to validate pumped sample.
- Location 1G and 1GD, yesterday showed results an order of magnitude higher than all other results at 2.0 and 1.6 respectively. This location is one of the nearest sampling locations (about a mile) near the spill. BUT yesterday's results were lower at this location at 0.6 and 0.62 respectively.
- Other grid locations showed elevated results below 0.7; thereby, creating a contaminant plume from the point source at 1G.
- The plume appeared to move northwest as predicted following the lake currents from east to west
- Appears the concentration is being diluted

Today 4/14/17

- IEPA was notified by phone this morning
- It was determined to again expand the grid based Lake Survey sampling to verify and the plume to make sure the plume is diluting and continue sampling SWPP's Crib every two hours.
- NOAA Lake Michigan flow current model shows THE CURRENT IS EAST TO WEST.
- TESTING WILL CONTINUE

Thanks
Alan

From: Stark, Alan

Sent: Thursday, April 13, 2017 1:22 PM

To: 'Poy, Thomas'; Ames, Mort; Murphy, Barrett; Hernandez-Tomlin, Julie; Litherland, Gary; Caminer, Irene; Putz, Andrea; 'dave McMillan'; Wheat, Christopher; 'McMillan, Dave'; Kelly, Mike; Schwer, Patrick; Skiadopoulos, Frank; O'Malley, Mark; Salinas, Eduardo; Litherland, Gary; Saleh, Hassen; Bresnahan, William

Cc: 'Mary Hollingsworth'; 'Korleski, Christopher'; 'feighnerb@michigan.gov'

Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

All

Attached are the results from yesterday

- All Samples collected at SWPP from SWPP's 68th Street Crib Complex are within normal range.
- The Lake Survey (see attached) consisted of 16 sample locations and 19 samples. Three samples with the suffix of D indicates a Dip control sample to validate pumped sample.
- Location 1G and 1GD show results an order of magnitude higher than all other results at 2.0 and 1.6 respectively. This location is one of the nearest sampling locations (about a mile) near the spill.

Today

- IEPA and USEPA were notified by phone this morning
- It was determined to expand the grid based Lake Survey sampling to verify and follow the possible plume and continue sampling SWPP's Crib every two hours.
- NOAA Lake Michigan flow current model shows the CURRENT HAS REVERSED from the previous two days of west to east, NOW THE CURRENT IS EAST TO WEST.
- THEREFORE CHANGE IN DIRECTION OF PLUME TO THE WEST
- TESTING WILL CONTINUE

Thanks
Alan

Alan,

Attached are 2 excel spreadsheets with all of the results from samples received yesterday. Final reports will hopefully be sent out later today.

If you need anything else, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Nathan Trowbridge
Client Services Manager

Eurofins Eaton Analytical, Inc.
110 South Hill Street, South Bend, IN 46617
Phone: 574 472 5528
Mobile: 574 302 2590

Email: NathanTrowbridge@eurofinsUS.com
Website: <http://www.EurofinsUS.com/Eaton>

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From: Stark, Alan
Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2017 6:04 PM
To: 'Poy, Thomas'; Ames, Mort; Murphy, Barrett; Hernandez-Tomlin, Julie; Litherland, Gary; Caminer, Irene; Putz, Andrea; 'dave McMillan'; Wheat, Christopher; 'McMillan, Dave'; Kelly, Mike; Schwer, Patrick; Skiadopoulos, Frank; O'Malley, Mark; Salinas, Eduardo; Litherland, Gary; Saleh, Hassen; Bresnahan, William
Cc: 'Mary Hollingsworth'; 'Korleski, Christopher'; 'feighnerb@michigan.gov'
Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

See below highlighted, results from first ten samples (excel sheet) in agreement with our routine samples collected quarterly. Remaining results from Crib lake survey being delivered to Eurofins (as of this email) to follow. Also attached GIS plot of lake grid survey, results to follow. As stated earlier further sampling will be based on final results.

Thanks
Alan

From: Nathan Trowbridge [<mailto:NathanTrowbridge@eurofinsUS.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2017 5:30 PM
To: Stark, Alan
Subject: RE: COC Sheets

Thanks Alan,

I've attached data for the 1st 10 samples that were analyzed. The next 4, plus the ones coming in tonight should be ready by tomorrow morning. The data looks fairly steady each hour and what I saw of the next 4 was similar. I'll let you know more as soon as I have data.

If you need anything else, please let me know. I'll be here until all of the new samples are on the instrument. I'll be at home checking email after that.

Thanks,

Nathan Trowbridge

Phone: +1 574 472 5528

Mobile: +1 574 302 2590

Email: NathanTrowbridge@EurofinsUS.com

From: Stark, Alan [<mailto:Alan.Stark@cityofchicago.org>]

Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2017 6:09 PM

To: Nathan Trowbridge

Subject: COC Sheets

See attached completed COC from the morning and one from the Lake Survey that is on the way to you

Alan

This e-mail, and any attachments thereto, is intended only for use by the addressee(s) named herein and may contain legally privileged and/or confidential information. If you are not the intended recipient of this e-mail (or the person responsible for delivering this document to the intended recipient), you are hereby notified that any dissemination, distribution, printing or copying of this e-mail, and any attachment thereto, is strictly prohibited. If you have received this e-mail in error, please respond to the individual sending the message, and permanently delete the original and any copy of any e-mail and printout thereof.

Notify us [here](#) to report this email as spam.

From: Stark, Alan

Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2017 12:23 PM

To: 'Poy, Thomas'; Ames, Mort; Murphy, Barrett; Hernandez-Tomlin, Julie; Litherland, Gary; Caminer, Irene; Putz, Andrea; dave McMillan; Wheat, Christopher; McMillan, Dave; Kelly, Mike; Schwer, Patrick; Skiadopoulos, Frank; O'Malley, Mark; Salinas, Eduardo; Litherland, Gary

Cc: Mary Hollingsworth; Korleski, Christopher; feighnerb@michigan.gov

Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

Thank you!

From: Poy, Thomas [<mailto:poy.thomas@epa.gov>]

Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2017 12:10 PM

To: Stark, Alan; Ames, Mort; Murphy, Barrett; Hernandez-Tomlin, Julie; Litherland, Gary; Caminer, Irene; Putz, Andrea; dave McMillan; Wheat, Christopher; McMillan, Dave; Kelly, Mike; Schwer, Patrick; Skiadopoulos, Frank; O'Malley, Mark; Salinas, Eduardo; Litherland, Gary

Cc: Mary Hollingsworth; Korleski, Christopher; feighnerb@michigan.gov

Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

I believe the source of the active release has been stopped and it is just residual in the outfall now.

Tom

Tom Poy

Chief, Ground Water and Drinking Water Branch

USEPA - Region 5

(312) 886-5991

From: Stark, Alan [<mailto:Alan.Stark@cityofchicago.org>]

Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2017 10:37 AM

To: Poy, Thomas <poy.thomas@epa.gov>; Ames, Mort <Mort.Ames@cityofchicago.org>; Murphy, Barrett <Barrett.Murphy@cityofchicago.org>; Hernandez-Tomlin, Julie <Julie.HernandezTomlin@cityofchicago.org>; Litherland, Gary <Gary.Litherland@cityofchicago.org>; Caminer, Irene <Irene.Caminer@cityofchicago.org>; Putz, Andrea <Andrea.Putz@cityofchicago.org>; dave McMillan <dave.mcmillan@illinois.gov>; Wheat, Christopher <Christopher.Wheat@cityofchicago.org>; McMillan, Dave <DAVE.MCMILLAN@Illinois.gov>; Kelly, Mike <Mike.Kelly@cityofchicago.org>; Schwer, Patrick <Patrick.Schwer@cityofchicago.org>; Skiadopoulos, Frank <Frank.Skiadopoulos@cityofchicago.org>; O'Malley, Mark <Mark.OMalley@cityofchicago.org>; Salinas, Eduardo <Eduardo.Salinas@cityofchicago.org>; Litherland, Gary <Gary.Litherland@cityofchicago.org>

Cc: Mary Hollingsworth <MHolling@idem.in.gov>; Korleski, Christopher <korleski.christopher@epa.gov>; feighnerb@michigan.gov

Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

Have they stopped the outfall?

From: Poy, Thomas [<mailto:poy.thomas@epa.gov>]

Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2017 10:35 AM

To: Stark, Alan; Ames, Mort; Murphy, Barrett; Hernandez-Tomlin, Julie; Litherland, Gary; Caminer, Irene; Putz, Andrea; dave McMillan; Wheat, Christopher; McMillan, Dave; Kelly, Mike; Schwer, Patrick; Skiadopoulos, Frank; O'Malley, Mark; Salinas, Eduardo; Litherland, Gary

Cc: Mary Hollingsworth; Korleski, Christopher; feighnerb@michigan.gov

Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

Hi Alan: No update on quantity or concentration. The sampling from yesterday was indicating that the chromium had not reached Lake Michigan. More sampling is going to be done today.

Tom

Tom Poy

Chief, Ground Water and Drinking Water Branch

USEPA - Region 5

(312) 886-5991

From: Stark, Alan [mailto:Alan.Stark@cityofchicago.org]

Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2017 10:08 AM

To: Ames, Mort <Mort.Ames@cityofchicago.org>; Murphy, Barrett <Barrett.Murphy@cityofchicago.org>; Hernandez-Tomlin, Julie <Julie.HernandezTomlin@cityofchicago.org>; Litherland, Gary <Gary.Litherland@cityofchicago.org>; Caminer, Irene <Irene.Caminer@cityofchicago.org>; Putz, Andrea <Andrea.Putz@cityofchicago.org>; Poy, Thomas <poy.thomas@epa.gov>; dave McMillan <dave.mcmillan@illinois.gov>; Wheat, Christopher <Christopher.Wheat@cityofchicago.org>; McMillan, Dave <DAVE.MCMILLAN@Illinois.gov>; Kelly, Mike <Mike.Kelly@cityofchicago.org>; Schwer, Patrick <Patrick.Schwer@cityofchicago.org>; Skiadopoulos, Frank <Frank.Skiadopoulos@cityofchicago.org>; O'Malley, Mark <Mark.OMalley@cityofchicago.org>; Salinas, Eduardo <Eduardo.Salinas@cityofchicago.org>; Litherland, Gary <Gary.Litherland@cityofchicago.org>

Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

Hi Tom,

Any updates, release quantity and concentration?

Lake currents still counter clockwise. Hourly samples from SWPP's 68th Street Crib complex in route to Eurofins in South Bend. Lake Survey underway, samples will be driven to Eurofins once they boat gets back. Results will be forwarded as I get them. Crib sampling now every two hours lab results will dictated further sampling and possible mitigation.

Thanks
Alan

From: Stark, Alan

Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2017 1:44 AM

To: Ames, Mort; Murphy, Barrett; Hernandez-Tomlin, Julie; Litherland, Gary; Caminer, Irene; Putz, Andrea; Poy, Thomas; dave McMillan; Wheat, Christopher

Subject: Fwd: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

Tom

Thank you for the update.

We are collecting hourly at SWPP crib, driving samples to Euro fins this morning, results later afternoon. Lake survey in morning, drive samples in afternoon, results late night. I will forward results to you and Dave as I get them.

Thanks
Alan

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

----- Original message -----

From: "Poy, Thomas" <poy.thomas@epa.gov>

Date: 4/11/17 11:40 PM (GMT-06:00)

To: "Stark, Alan" <Alan.Stark@cityofchicago.org>, Dave McMillan <dave.mcmillan@illinois.gov>, Mary Hollingsworth <MHolling@idem.IN.gov>, feighnerb@michigan.gov

Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

The last that I heard, they were still investigating the cause and volume of the release.

A set of samples were collected before dark. Samples were taken upstream of the outfall, at the outfall, and downstream of the outfall. Two samples were also taken at the nearby Indiana American Water intake and wet well. A subset of samples, including the samples taken at the water intake, were sent to an on-site lab for rapid turnaround. The highest concentration of in the samples was detected at the outfall was 949 ppb. The samples taken at the American Water intake and wet well were non-detects for total chromium. The rest of the samples will be sent off to a lab in Valparaiso later tonight to be run for hexavalent chromium. Overnight, samples will be taken at the outfall every 2 hours and another full round of samples will be taken tomorrow morning

Tom Poy
Chief, Ground Water and Drinking Water Branch
USEPA - Region 5
(312) 886-5991

From: Stark, Alan [<mailto:Alan.Stark@cityofchicago.org>]
Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 8:02 PM
To: Poy, Thomas <poy.thomas@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

Any updates?

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

----- Original message -----

From: "Poy, Thomas" <poy.thomas@epa.gov>
Date: 4/11/17 2:53 PM (GMT-06:00)
To: "Stark, Alan" <Alan.Stark@cityofchicago.org>
Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

Alan: Thanks for the information. I'm sharing what you're doing with the OSCs at the site.

Tom

Tom Poy
Chief, Ground Water and Drinking Water Branch
USEPA - Region 5
(312) 886-5991

From: Stark, Alan [<mailto:Alan.Stark@cityofchicago.org>]
Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 2:19 PM
To: McMillan, Dave <DAVE.MCMILLAN@Illinois.gov>; Poy, Thomas <poy.thomas@epa.gov>
Cc: Murphy, Barrett <Barrett.Murphy@cityofchicago.org>; Hernandez-Tomlin, Julie <Julie.HernandezTomlin@cityofchicago.org>; Putz, Andrea <Andrea.Putz@cityofchicago.org>; Kelly, Mike <Mike.Kelly@cityofchicago.org>; Schwer, Patrick <Patrick.Schwer@cityofchicago.org>; O'Malley, Mark <Mark.OMalley@cityofchicago.org>; Salinas, Eduardo <Eduardo.Salinas@cityofchicago.org>; Skiadopoulos, Frank <Frank.Skiadopoulos@cityofchicago.org>; Litherland, Gary <Gary.Litherland@cityofchicago.org>; Caminer, Irene

<Irene.Camner@cityofchicago.org>

Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

Dave and Tom

Per our discussion, NOAA currents showing counter clockwise current in Lake Michigan and winds out of the west. For precaution we will sample for Cr6+ at SWPP Crib hourly once we get the sample bottles from the lab. Tomorrow, out of an abundance of caution, we will do a grid sampling of Lake Michigan, quarter mile off shore near Gary Indiana for Cr6+. Any questions please call me anytime 312-617-4233.

Thanks
Alan

From: McMillan, Dave [mailto:DAVE.MCMILLAN@Illinois.gov]

Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 1:53 PM

To: Stark, Alan

Subject: FW: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

Additional information per our discussion.

From: Lauder, Roger

Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 1:50 PM

To: McMillan, Dave <DAVE.MCMILLAN@Illinois.gov>; Cook, David <DAVID.COOK@Illinois.gov>

Subject: FW: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

FYI

From: Borries, Samuel [mailto:borries.samuel@epa.gov]

Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 1:48 PM

To: Lauder, Roger

Cc: El-Zein, Jason

Subject: [External] FW: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

Roger,
Here is the ER notification report with the current information.

From: Thomas, Craig

Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 1:46 PM

To: R5 ER Notification List <R5_ER_Notification_List@epa.gov>

Cc: Maguire, Andrew <maguire.andrew@epa.gov>; Beslow, Mike <beslow.mike@epa.gov>; Lippert, Jeffrey <lippert.jeffrey@epa.gov>; Behnke, Kristina <behnke.kristina@epa.gov>; Mendez, Thomas <mendez.thomas@epa.gov>

Subject: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

ER Notification #1 (Initial) – U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release, Portage, IN

Region 5 ER Notification #1 (Initial): NRC# 1175399, U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release, Portage, IN

Report as of: 09/23/16 at 13:45 CDT

Overview: On 4/11/17 at approximately 09:30 central time, U.S Steel Corporation discovered a green discoloration in the water near an outfall at their facility in Portage, IN, discharging into Burns Waterway (aka

Burns Ditch). U.S. Steel reported this to the National Response Center (NRC #1175399). OSC Thomas contacted the reporting party regarding this incident, and was told the facility was conducting an investigation to determine what it was. OSC Thomas then contacted OSCs Beslow and Mendez, who were nearby, to investigate as well.

Upon arriving at the scene, OSCs Beslow and Mendez met with U.S. Steel's environmental manager and were told that the facility had determined the material was hexavalent chrome. This information was immediately shared with United States Coast Guard personnel, who were also responding.

State, Local, and other Federal Agency Action: The USCG, and IDEM have arrived on scene. EPA has notified local water intakes in Gary, East Chicago, and Ogden Dunes. Indiana American Water in Ogden Dunes has shut down their water intake and has approximately 4 hours of reserves.

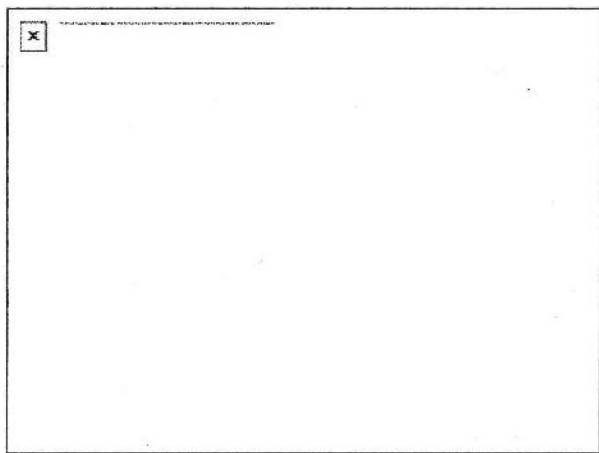
EPA has also notified U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Department of the Interior and the National Park Service.

EPA Actions: EPA OSC Andy Maguire and START are mobilizing to the scene to conduct water sampling. Investigations are under way to determine how the hexavalent chrome released, the amount of hexavalent chrome released and the extent of the release into the waterway.

The facility has minimized the amount of water it is using to essential systems only to reduce through put.

Media Interest: No media interest at this time.

EPA Region 5 OSC contact: Andy Maguire, 312-758-8672



Craig Thomas
US EPA Region 5 On-Scene Coordinator
Emergency Response Branch
77 W. Jackson Blvd., SE-5J
Chicago, IL 60604
312-886-5907 office
312-802-9637 cell



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Poy, Thomas

From: Stark, Alan <Alan.Stark@cityofchicago.org>
Sent: Monday, April 17, 2017 3:56 PM
To: Poy, Thomas; Ames, Mort; Murphy, Barrett; Hernandez-Tomlin, Julie; Litherland, Gary; Caminer, Irene; Putz, Andrea; dave McMillan; Wheat, Christopher; Kelly, Mike; Schwer, Patrick; Skiadopoulos, Frank; O'Malley, Mark; Salinas, Eduardo; Saleh, Hassen; Bresnahan, William
Cc: Mary Hollingsworth; Korleski, Christopher; feighnerb@michigan.gov; Stark, Alan
Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN
Attachments: Cr6+ Lk Survey 041717 GIS points only no analysis.pdf; MP_CTR_JSM_HeatMap_USSteel_04172017.pdf

All

Today we sampled a new grid area that is northwest from the initial grid location.

Attached is a Heat Map that overlays colors on the GIS map based on concentration of Cr6+, a good qualitative approach only.

On 4/12/17 shows the highest concentration at 1G and 1GD in red. The next day 4/13/17 another six locations were added to the east. The Heat Map shows the extreme levels being diluted and spread through the Grid Sampling area. Finally, 4/14/17 shows the concentration being pushed to the west, due to the current changes to the west.

Also, attached is today's sampling grid based on the concentration gradient moving towards the Northwest, samples were collected, pending analysis. This grid is northwest of the initial grid and depending on results.

From: Stark, Alan
Sent: Sunday, April 16, 2017 12:38 PM
To: Poy, Thomas; Ames, Mort; Murphy, Barrett; Hernandez-Tomlin, Julie; Litherland, Gary; Caminer, Irene; Putz, Andrea; dave McMillan; Wheat, Christopher; Kelly, Mike; Schwer, Patrick; Skiadopoulos, Frank; O'Malley, Mark; Salinas, Eduardo; Saleh, Hassen; Bresnahan, William; Stark, Alan
Cc: Mary Hollingsworth; Korleski, Christopher; feighnerb@michigan.gov
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Tomorrow, we will perform one more grid based Lake Survey but now it will be between sample locations 2S and 3S to confirm the dilution

Alan Stark
Deputy Commissioner, BWS
Department of Water Management
Jardine Water Purification Plant
Chicago, Illinois 60611
312-744-7733 office
312-742-2364 fax

Poy, Thomas

From: Poy, Thomas
Sent: Tuesday, April 18, 2017 8:27 AM
To: Borries, Samuel; Mendez, Thomas
Cc: Korleski, Christopher; Timothy Henry - EPA
Subject: FW: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN
Attachments: Cr6+ Lk Survey 041717 GIS points only no analysis.pdf; MP_CTR_JSM_HeatMap_USSteel_04172017.pdf

Chicago will be sampling a new grid area that is between US Steel and the Southshore plant.

Tom Poy
Chief, Ground Water and Drinking Water Branch
USEPA - Region 5
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Cc: Mary Hollingsworth <MHolling@idem.IN.gov>; Korleski, Christopher <korleski.christopher@epa.gov>; feighnerb@michigan.gov; Stark, Alan <Alan.Stark@cityofchicago.org>
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Cc: Mary Hollingsworth; Korleski, Christopher; feighnerb@michigan.gov

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Alan Stark

Deputy Commissioner, BWS

Department of Water Management

Jardine Water Purification Plant

Chicago, Illinois 60611

312-744-7733 office

312-742-2364 fax

Poy, Thomas

From: Mendez, Thomas
Sent: Tuesday, April 18, 2017 9:01 AM
To: Poy, Thomas
Cc: Korleski, Christopher; Henry, Timothy
Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

Thanks for keeping SFD in the loop.

FYI we probably will be concluding our last large sampling effort after today. US Steel will continue to monitor their outfall. My plan was to touch base with WECA (I believe Dean is handling this) and hand off any information that we learned for any future enforcement.

Thomas Mendez

Emergency Response Branch
On Scene Coordinator
U.S. EPA Region 5
77 W Jackson Blvd (SE-5J)
Chicago, Illinois 60604
312-353-8242

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From: Poy, Thomas
Sent: Tuesday, April 18, 2017 8:28 AM
To: Borries, Samuel <borries.samuel@epa.gov>; Mendez, Thomas <mendez.thomas@epa.gov>
Cc: Korleski, Christopher <korleski.christopher@epa.gov>; Henry, Timothy <henry.timothy@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

Chicago will be sampling a new grid area that is between US Steel and the Southshore plant.

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Cc: Mary Hollingsworth; Korleski, Christopher; feighnerb@michigan.gov

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Alan Stark

Deputy Commissioner, BWS

Department of Water Management

Jardine Water Purification Plant

Chicago, Illinois 60611

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Poy, Thomas

From: Borries, Samuel
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Thanks Tom.

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Deputy Commissioner, BWS

Department of Water Management

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Chicago, Illinois 60611

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Poy, Thomas

From: Mendez, Thomas
Sent: Tuesday, April 18, 2017 9:22 AM
To: Poy, Thomas
Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

Are these public documents?

US Steel has interest in seeing the locations they (Chicago) has been sampling. I don't want to forward this on without checking first.

Thomas Mendez
Emergency Response Branch
On Scene Coordinator
U.S. EPA Region 5
77 W Jackson Blvd (SE-5J)
Chicago, Illinois 60604
312-353-8242

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From: Poy, Thomas
Sent: Tuesday, April 18, 2017 8:26 AM
To: Borries, Samuel <borries.samuel@epa.gov>; Mendez, Thomas <mendez.thomas@epa.gov>
Cc: Korleski, Christopher <korleski.christopher@epa.gov>; Henry, Timothy <henry.timothy@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

FYI...

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Chief, Ground Water and Drinking Water Branch
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Poy, Thomas

From: Poy, Thomas
Sent: Tuesday, April 18, 2017 10:18 AM
To: 'Stark, Alan'
Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

Alan: Thank you very much for the data from your lake monitoring. Are the locations and/or data public info? US Steel has asked our OSCs to see where you've taken samples.

Tom

Tom Poy
Chief, Ground Water and Drinking Water Branch
USEPA - Region 5
(312) 886-5991

From: Stark, Alan [mailto:Alan.Stark@cityofchicago.org]
Sent: Monday, April 17, 2017 3:56 PM
To: Poy, Thomas <poy.thomas@epa.gov>; Ames, Mort <Mort.Ames@cityofchicago.org>; Murphy, Barrett <Barrett.Murphy@cityofchicago.org>; Hernandez-Tomlin, Julie <Julie.HernandezTomlin@cityofchicago.org>; Litherland, Gary <Gary.Litherland@cityofchicago.org>; Caminer, Irene <Irene.Caminer@cityofchicago.org>; Putz, Andrea <Andrea.Putz@cityofchicago.org>; dave McMillan <DAVE.MCMILLAN@Illinois.gov>; Wheat, Christopher <Christopher.Wheat@cityofchicago.org>; Kelly, Mike <Mike.Kelly@cityofchicago.org>; Schwer, Patrick <Patrick.Schwer@cityofchicago.org>; Skiadopoulos, Frank <Frank.Skiadopoulos@cityofchicago.org>; O'Malley, Mark <Mark.OMalley@cityofchicago.org>; Salinas, Eduardo <Eduardo.Salinas@cityofchicago.org>; Saleh, Hassen <Hassen.Saleh@cityofchicago.org>; Bresnahan, William <William.Bresnahan@cityofchicago.org>
Cc: Mary Hollingsworth <MHolling@idem.IN.gov>; Korleski, Christopher <korleski.christopher@epa.gov>; feighnerb@michigan.gov; Stark, Alan <Alan.Stark@cityofchicago.org>
Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

All

Today we sampled a new grid area that is northwest from the initial grid location.

Attached is a Heat Map that overlays colors on the GIS map based on concentration of Cr6+, a good qualitative approach only.

On 4/12/17 shows the highest concentration at 1G and 1GD in red. The next day 4/13/17 another six locations were added to the east. The Heat Map shows the extreme levels being diluted and spread through the Grid Sampling area. Finally, 4/14/17 shows the concentration being pushed to the west, due to the current changes to the west.

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Sent: Sunday, April 16, 2017 12:38 PM
To: Poy, Thomas; Ames, Mort; Murphy, Barrett; Hernandez-Tomlin, Julie; Litherland, Gary; Caminer, Irene; Putz, Andrea; dave McMillan; Wheat, Christopher; Kelly, Mike; Schwer, Patrick; Skiadopoulos, Frank; O'Malley, Mark; Salinas, Eduardo; Saleh, Hassen; Bresnahan, William; Stark, Alan

Cc: Mary Hollingsworth; Korleski, Christopher; feighnerb@michigan.gov

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Tomorrow, we will perform one more grid based Lake Survey but now it will be between sample locations 2S and 3S to confirm the dilution

Alan Stark
Deputy Commissioner, BWS
Department of Water Management
Jardine Water Purification Plant
Chicago, Illinois 60611
312-744-7733 office
312-742-2364 fax

Poy, Thomas

From: Stark, Alan <Alan.Stark@cityofchicago.org>
Sent: Thursday, April 20, 2017 2:34 PM
To: Poy, Thomas
Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

Yes, share the data

Alan

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

----- Original message -----

From: "Poy, Thomas" <poy.thomas@epa.gov>
Date: 4/18/17 10:18 AM (GMT-06:00)
To: "Stark, Alan" <Alan.Stark@cityofchicago.org>
Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

Alan: Thank you very much for the data from your lake monitoring. Are the locations and/or data public info? US Steel has asked our OSCs to see where you've taken samples.

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Alan Stark

Deputy Commissioner, BWS

Department of Water Management

Jardine Water Purification Plant

Chicago, Illinois 60611

312-744-7733 office

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Poy, Thomas

From: Poy, Thomas
Sent: Friday, April 21, 2017 8:24 AM
To: Mendez, Thomas
Subject: FW: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

Tom: Alan Stark says it's ok to share the sampling locations and data.

Tom Poy
Chief, Ground Water and Drinking Water Branch
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Department of Water Management

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Poy, Thomas

From: Poy, Thomas
Sent: Monday, April 24, 2017 8:09 AM
To: Borries, Samuel; Mendez, Thomas
Cc: Korleski, Christopher; Timothy Henry - EPA
Subject: FW: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN
Attachments: SWPP 68th Crib 04171817 Cr+.xls.xlsx; US Steel Lake Survey East of SWPP 68th Crib 041717 Cr+GIS.xls.xlsx; 386795_20170419__EMT-IL_20170419-TAT.pdf; 386851_20170419__EMT-IL_20170420-TAT.pdf; 386779_20170419__EMT-IL_20170419-TAT.pdf; MP_CTR_JSM_Sample_Locations_USSteelSpill_DetailedTable_0417Survey_20170421.pdf

Here are Chicago's sampling results from the new grid that is about half way between the Southshore intake and US Steel. All results are between 0.16 ppb and 0.18 ppb – what they normally see in the lake.

Tom

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Yes, Chicago's sampling clearly shows that levels in the lake are at "background" levels.

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Also, attached is today's sampling grid based on the concentration gradient moving towards the Northwest, samples were collected, pending analysis. This grid is northwest of the initial grid and depending on results.

From: Stark, Alan

Sent: Sunday, April 16, 2017 12:38 PM

To: Poy, Thomas; Ames, Mort; Murphy, Barrett; Hernandez-Tomlin, Julie; Litherland, Gary; Caminer, Irene; Putz, Andrea; dave McMillan; Wheat, Christopher; Kelly, Mike; Schwer, Patrick; Skiadopoulos, Frank; O'Malley, Mark; Salinas, Eduardo; Saleh, Hassen; Bresnahan, William; Stark, Alan

Cc: Mary Hollingsworth; Korleski, Christopher; feighnerb@michigan.gov

Subject: Re: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

Attached are the completed results for all samples collected Friday 4/14/17. The Chromium 6+ is diluting and headed west. Samples are being taken every 6 hours from the SWPP Crib.

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Alan Stark

Deputy Commissioner, BWS

Department of Water Management

Jardine Water Purification Plant

Chicago, Illinois 60611

312-744-7733 office

312-742-2364 fax

Poy, Thomas

From: Korleski, Christopher
Sent: Monday, April 24, 2017 9:01 AM
To: Poy, Thomas
Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

TX!

From: Poy, Thomas
Sent: Monday, April 24, 2017 8:16 AM
To: Korleski, Christopher <korleski.christopher@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

Yes, Chicago's sampling clearly shows that levels in the lake are at "background" levels.

Tom Poy
Chief, Ground Water and Drinking Water Branch
USEPA - Region 5
(312) 886-5991

From: Korleski, Christopher
Sent: Friday, April 21, 2017 4:02 PM
To: Poy, Thomas <poy.thomas@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

Tom – the only Qs I have is whether this matter is "over" and to confirm that there is no risk of harm to the environment or public health. Thanks.

From: Stark, Alan [<mailto:Alan.Stark@cityofchicago.org>]
Sent: Friday, April 21, 2017 1:31 PM
To: Poy, Thomas <poy.thomas@epa.gov>; Ames, Mort <Mort.Ames@cityofchicago.org>; Murphy, Barrett <Barrett.Murphy@cityofchicago.org>; Hernandez-Tomlin, Julie <Julie.HernandezTomlin@cityofchicago.org>; Litherland, Gary <Gary.Litherland@cityofchicago.org>; Caminer, Irene <Irene.Caminer@cityofchicago.org>; Putz, Andrea <Andrea.Putz@cityofchicago.org>; dave McMillan <DAVE.MCMILLAN@Illinois.gov>; Wheat, Christopher <Christopher.Wheat@cityofchicago.org>; Kelly, Mike <Mike.Kelly@cityofchicago.org>; Schwer, Patrick <Patrick.Schwer@cityofchicago.org>; Skiadopoulos, Frank <Frank.Skiadopoulos@cityofchicago.org>; O'Malley, Mark <Mark.OMalley@cityofchicago.org>; Salinas, Eduardo <Eduardo.Salinas@cityofchicago.org>; Saleh, Hassen <Hassen.Saleh@cityofchicago.org>; Bresnahan, William <William.Bresnahan@cityofchicago.org>
Cc: Mary Hollingsworth <MHolling@idem.IN.gov>; Korleski, Christopher <korleski.christopher@epa.gov>; feighnerb@michigan.gov
Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

Last Lake Survey Results on new grid sample scheme. All results in agreement with our quarterly samples. Attached is the final map, data and QA/QC.

Alan

From: Stark, Alan
Sent: Monday, April 17, 2017 3:55 PM
To: Poy, Thomas; Ames, Mort; Murphy, Barrett; Hernandez-Tomlin, Julie; Litherland, Gary; Caminer, Irene; Putz, Andrea;

dave McMillan; Wheat, Christopher; Kelly, Mike; Schwer, Patrick; Skiadopoulos, Frank; O'Malley, Mark; Salinas, Eduardo; Saleh, Hassen; Bresnahan, William

Cc: Mary Hollingsworth; Korleski, Christopher; feighnerb@michigan.gov; Stark, Alan

Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

All

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Department of Water Management

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Chicago, Illinois 60611

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312-742-2364 fax

Poy, Thomas

From: Borries, Samuel
Sent: Monday, April 24, 2017 9:25 AM
To: Poy, Thomas
Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

Thanks Tom.

From: Poy, Thomas
Sent: Monday, April 24, 2017 8:10 AM
To: Borries, Samuel <borries.samuel@epa.gov>; Mendez, Thomas <mendez.thomas@epa.gov>
Cc: Korleski, Christopher <korleski.christopher@epa.gov>; Henry, Timothy <henry.timothy@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

Here are Chicago's sampling results from the new grid that is about half way between the Southshore intake and US Steel. All results are between 0.16 ppb and 0.18 ppb – what they normally see in the lake.

Tom

Tom Poy
Chief, Ground Water and Drinking Water Branch
USEPA - Region 5
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